

# Characterizing the Middle Yegua, Davidson Creek and Deer Creek Watersheds Final Report



*Deer Creek. Photo by Ed Rhodes.*

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Prepared for the Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board

**TSSWCB Project #18-52**

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## Abbreviations

<i>E. coli</i>	<i>Escherichia coli</i>
GIS	Geographic Information Systems
LDC	Load Duration Curve
QA	Quality Assurance
QAPP	Quality Assurance Protection Plan
QC	Quality Control
QPR	Quarterly progress report
RUAA	Recreational Use Attainability Analysis
SWCD	Soil and Water Conservation District
SWQMIS	Surface Water Quality Information Systems
TCEQ	Texas Commission on Environmental Quality
TSSWCB	Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board
TWON	Texas Well Owner Network
TWRI	Texas Water Resources Institute



## Executive Summary

Middle Yegua Creek, Davidson Creek and Deer Creek are all located in the southern portion of the Brazos River Basin in separate watersheds (Figure 1). Middle Yegua Creek begins at the confluence with East Yegua and Yegua Creeks in Lee County and flows approximately 62 miles to the Lee County/Williamson County line. Middle Yegua Creek drains an area of approximately 440 square miles in Lee, Bastrop, Williamson and Milam counties. Davidson Creek is an intermittent stream with perennial pools that flows approximately 59 miles from the confluence of Yegua Creek to just over 1 mile above CR 322 in Milam County. Davidson Creek drains an area of approximately 218 square miles in Burleson and Milam counties. Deer Creek is a perennial stream that begins at the confluence of the Brazos River upstream and flows approximately 11 miles to the confluence of Dog Branch northwest of Lott. Deer Creek drains an area of approximately 115 square miles in Falls, McLennan and Bell counties. Each of the watersheds was evaluated separately throughout the project to reflect the individual characteristics and water quality issues of the waterbodies.

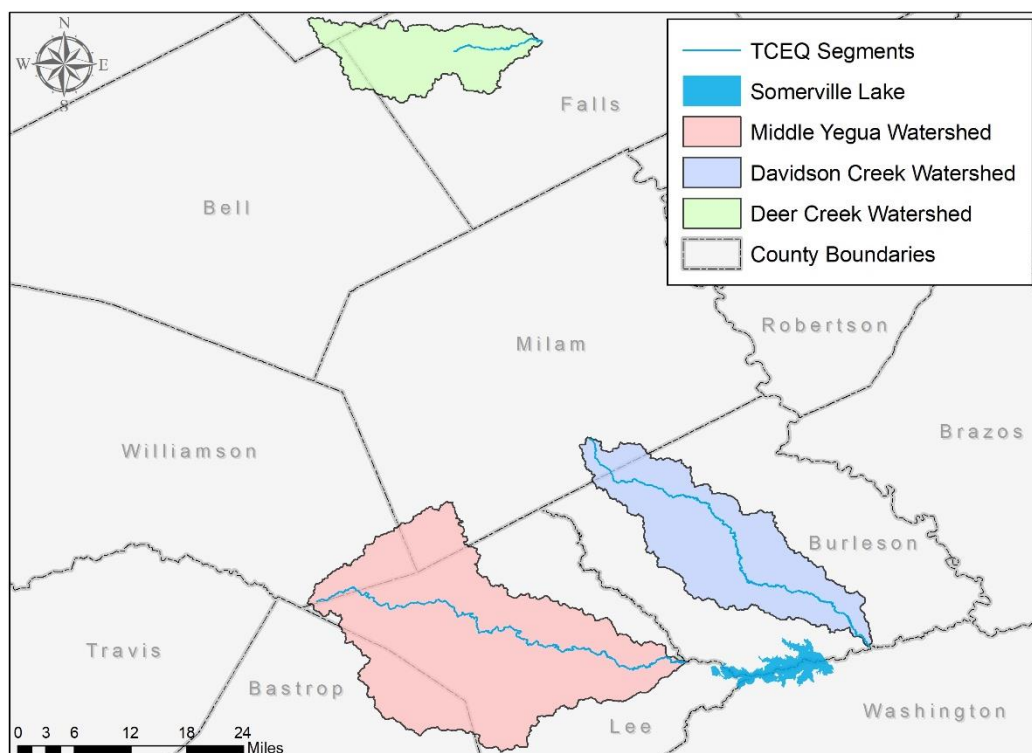


Figure 1. Overview of characterized watersheds

Middle Yegua Creek, Davidson Creek and Deer Creek have all been identified to be impaired for elevated concentrations of *Escherichia coli* (*E. coli*) in the 2020 *Texas Integrated Report of Surface Water Quality for the Clean Water Act Sections 305(b) and 303(d)* (Texas Integrated Report). Davidson Creek was also listed in the 2020 *Texas Integrated Report* as impaired for depressed dissolved oxygen. Elevated levels of *E. coli* have been identified in the Middle Yegua Creek watershed since as early as 2010. For the Davidson Creek watershed elevated bacteria levels were first identified in 2002 and

depressed dissolved oxygen in 2010. For the Deer Creek watershed, the bacteria impairment was first identified in 2006.

With the identification of water quality issues in the Middle Yegua Creek, Davidson Creek and Deer Creek watersheds, the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) did a recreational use-attainability analysis (RUAA) on each watershed separately to determine their appropriate recreational use and numeric criteria. The RUAA conducted in the summer of 2009 for Davidson Creek and the RUAA's conducted in the summer of 2012 for Middle Yegua Creek and Deer Creek all concluded that the designated use of primary contact recreation was appropriate. After this process was completed, there was a need to more accurately assess all three waterbodies and identify potential causes and sources of pollution before moving forward with watershed planning and implementation activities. With this in mind, the Texas Water Resources Institute (TWRI) proposed to acquire funding for water quality monitoring, education programs and data acquisition for a complete characterization of all three watersheds.

## Project Description

The primary objectives of this project were to evaluate existing data within the project areas, identify causes and sources of pollution, engage local stakeholders, provide educational programs and assess water quality. The result of meeting these objectives was a thorough characterization of the Middle Yegua Creek, Davidson Creek and Deer Creek watersheds which will help stakeholders with future watershed planning efforts.

Through this project, existing data such as water quality data, flow, wildlife and livestock estimates, number of septic systems, etc. was collected and evaluated to assist in identifying causes and sources of parameters impairing water quality. The characterization was conducted using Geographic Information Systems (GIS) analysis, National Agricultural Statistics Service, Council of Governments data as well as a variety of other sources. To supplement existing data and attempt to fill data gaps and improve analysis, additional water quality and flow data was collected at eight sites monthly (two sites in the Deer Creek watershed and three sites in each of the Middle Yegua Creek and Davidson Creek watersheds). Such data was crucial in estimating load reductions to accomplish water quality standards in each watershed and calculate Load Duration Curves (LDCs). A GIS analysis using the methodology employed by the Spatially Explicit Load Enrichment Calculation Tool was used to determine priority areas of pollutant sources in the watersheds.

The education of area landowners and agricultural producers was also an integral part of the characterization process. These stakeholders were educated through a variety of programs that focus on impairment parameters, local water quality and what can be done to improve water quality. In addition to these education programs, stakeholders were engaged, when appropriate, to participate in characterizing the watersheds.

## Task 1: Project Administration

Texas Water Resources Institute (TWRI) has effectively administered, coordinated and monitored all work performed under this project including technical and financial supervision and preparation of status reports. Further details for each subtask are provided in Appendix A.

### Subtask 1.1: QPRs

To track project progress, TWRI submitted quarterly progress reports (QPRs) to the Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board (TSSWCB). Quarterly reports contained an overview of project activities completed during each quarter, an overview of activities to be completed in the next quarter and highlighted related issues or problems associated with the project.

### Subtask 1.2: Reimbursement Forms

TWRI provided financial supervision to ensure tasks and deliverables were acceptable and completed within budget. Financial supervision consisted of submitting reimbursement forms at least quarterly to TSSWCB and submitting necessary budget revisions.

### Subtask 1.3: Project Coordination

TWRI hosted quarterly conference calls with TSSWCB to discuss project activities, the project schedule, communication needs, deliverables and other requirements. At the beginning of the project TWRI also met with TSSWCB for a project kick off meeting to discuss project details and water quality monitoring stations.

### Subtask 1.4: Final Report

TWRI developed a Final Report that summarizes activities completed during the duration of the project as well as the conclusions reached. The Final Report also discusses the extent to which the project goals and measures of success were achieved.

## Task 2: Quality Assurance

TWRI developed data quality objectives and quality assurance/control (QA/QC) activities to ensure data generated through this project were of known and acceptable quality. Further details for each subtask are provided in Appendix B.

### Subtask 2.1: QAPP Development

TWRI developed a Quality Assurance Protection Plan (QAPP) for activities in Task 4 and 5 consistent with the most recent versions of *EPA Requirements for Quality Assurance Project Plans (QA/R-5)* and the *TSSWCB Environmental Data Quality Management Plan*. All monitoring procedures and methods prescribed in the QAPP were consistent with the guidelines detailed in the *TCEQ Surface Water Quality Monitoring Procedures, Volume 1: Physical and Chemical Monitoring Methods for Water, Sediment, and Tissue (RG-415)* and *Volume 2: Methods for Collecting and Analyzing Biological Assemblage and Habitat Data (RG-416)*. After developing the QAPP, TWRI sent draft and final versions to TSSWCB and a final document was approved.

### Subtask 2.2: QAPP Implementation

TWRI implemented the approved QAPP for the development of the Watersheds Characterization Report and the water quality monitoring. TWRI submitted revisions and amendments of the QAPP to TSSWCB when necessary.

## Task 3: Public Outreach, Education and Involvement

One of the primary goals of this project was to increase stakeholder awareness of water quality impairments in the project watersheds. This was accomplished by educating, identifying, engaging and gaining stakeholder support for the characterization of the Middle Yegua, Davidson and Deer Creeks watersheds. Further details for each subtask are provided in Appendices C-K.

### Subtask 3.1: Public Education

TWRI hosted public education and outreach events in each project watershed annually. TWRI also provided both coordination and logistical support for all education events. These events included two Texas Well Owner Network (TWON) Workshops for the Davidson Creek watershed, one Wild

Pig Management Workshop and one TWON Workshop for the Middle Yegua Creek watershed, and one TWON Workshop for the Deer Creek watershed. The final education event that was scheduled for the Deer Creek watershed was a Riparian and Ecosystem Management Workshop. This event was supposed to take place in April 2020 but had to be canceled due to safety concerns regarding COVID-19. The workshop coordinator plans on rescheduling the event during Fall 2020.

### Subtask 3.2: Coordination of Stakeholder Group Activities

TWRI met with key stakeholders at Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) meetings for the Middle Yegua Creek and Davidson Creek watersheds. TWRI planned to meet with stakeholders at the SWCD meeting for Deer Creek but the meeting was cancelled due to safety concerns over COVID-19. TWRI also interacted with stakeholders at all education events and presented to them briefly on water quality issues in the watersheds.

### Subtask 3.3: Dissemination of Project Information

In order to keep stakeholders up to date on project education events and results, TWRI developed a Middle Yegua Creek, Davidson Creek and Deer Creek watersheds webpage (<https://twri.tamu.edu/our-work/restoring-protecting/middle-yegua-creek-davidson-creek-deer-creek-water-quality/>). Project information was also shared through presentations and a direct mailing of the Characterization Report to the watersheds' SWCDs.

## Task 4: Data Acquisition and Evaluation of Existing Data for Pollutant Characterization and Source Identification

In order to identify causes and sources of water quality impairments in the watersheds, data and information had to be collected from both state and federal online sources. This data was also necessary to calculate LDCs, estimate the necessary load reductions and describe relevant characteristics of the watersheds. All three deliverables for this task were combined into one Characterization Report to consolidate the information for the stakeholders. The final Characterization Report can be found in Appendix L and further explains the analyses and data collected.

### Subtask 4.1: Assemble Existing Data and Information

Data aggregation for the Characterization Report began in December 2019. The types of data gathered included: historical water quality data, livestock numbers, climate data, population numbers, soil data, on-site sewage facility locations, wastewater treatment plant data, etc. All of the data was kept in a single database.

### Subtask 4.2: Analyze Existing Data and Information

After all the necessary data was collected to characterize the watersheds, data analysis began. GIS maps were created to visually portray watershed characteristics. Bar graphs and scatter plots were developed to show historical water quality data and streamflow. Once the streamflow data was calculated for all three watersheds, LDCs were created and data from the water quality monitoring was added to the curves. Using the data from the LDCs, annual and daily loads were calculated for

each creek. Priority areas for each watershed were also determined by calculating the loadings from potential pollutant sources.

### Subtask 4.3: Estimate Pollutant Loading Reductions

Pollutant loading reductions needed to meet water quality standards were calculated using data collected in previous subtasks. They were calculated based off of the flow conditions in the LDCs for each watershed.

## Task 5: Water Quality Monitoring for Watershed Characterization

Due to the lack of historical water quality data in the watersheds, it was determined that supplemental water quality monitoring would be necessary. The collected bacteria and flow data were used to make the data set for the LDC analyses more robust. All surface water quality data collected was also used to better characterize impaired parameters and concerns in the watersheds.

### Subtask 5.1: Site Selection

Sites were selected for the project jointly by TSSWCB and TWRI. Both agencies considered the suitability of each site for sample collection and which sites would best help characterize the watersheds. TWRI conducted the sampling site reconnaissance to ensure that selected sites would be feasible for water quality monitoring.

### Subtask 5.2: Water Quality Monitoring

Water quality monitoring in the project watersheds began in December 2018. This included monthly, ambient water quality at two sites in the Deer Creek watershed and three sites in each of the Middle Yegua Creek and Davidson Creek watersheds. Parameters such as temperature, pH, dissolved oxygen and conductivity were collected at each of eight sites. Flow data was collected at all of the Middle Yegua Creek and Davidson Creek sites, but due to logistical issues no flow data was collected for the sites at Deer Creek. Bacteria samples were collected for all sites and successfully delivered to Aqua-Tech Laboratories during the holding time. Water quality monitoring took place over 15 consecutive months over the course of the project.

### Subtask 5.3: Water Quality Data Submission

Every month in which water quality monitoring occurred, Aqua-Tech Laboratories submitted completed lab analysis to TWRI. TWRI uploaded all lab and field data into its database during this time and submitted the data to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) Surface Water Quality Information Systems (SWQMIS) database on a quarterly basis. TWRI then sent the results of the submission to TSSWCB.

## Conclusion

Overall, the Middle Yegua Creek, Davidson Creek and Deer Creek characterization project was a great success. TWRI worked diligently to complete all project tasks and turn in deliverables on time



to the TSSWCB project manager. As a result, a foundation for future watershed planning efforts in the watersheds has been established and stakeholders now have a better understanding of water quality and conditions in the watersheds.

The development of the “Characterization of the Middle Yegua, Davidson and Deer Creeks Watersheds” report is a technical report that stakeholders will be able to use when deciding on a path forward to improve the water quality within the watersheds.

Working with local county offices to conduct educational activities helped maintain connections with stakeholders throughout the project and provided them with resources to better understand water quality issues in the watersheds.

Accomplishments are being made to restore water quality because of projects like this. Such projects are crucial statewide for continued success.

## Appendix A: Task 1 – Project Administration

### Subtask 1.1: QPRs

- TWRI submitted the first quarterly report on June 8, 2018.
- TWRI submitted the second quarterly report on September 14, 2018.
- TWRI submitted the third quarterly report on November 30, 2018.
- TWRI submitted the fourth quarterly report on March 1, 2019.
- TWRI submitted the fifth quarterly report on May 31, 2019.
- TWRI submitted the sixth quarterly report on August 30, 2019.
- TWRI submitted the seventh quarterly report on November 27, 2019.
- TWRI submitted the eighth quarterly report on February 28, 2020.
- TWRI submitted the ninth quarterly report on May 29, 2020.

### Subtask 1.2: Reimbursement Forms

- AgriLife submitted Invoice #R108680, covering July 1, 2018-July 31, 2018, for a total of \$2,577.62.
- AgriLife submitted Invoice #R108855, covering August 1, 2018-August 31, 2018, for a total of \$250.70.
- AgriLife submitted Invoice #R109089, covering September 1, 2018-September 30, 2018, for a total of \$6,096.10.
- AgriLife submitted Invoice #R109283, covering October 1, 2018-October 31, 2018, for a total of \$3,695.02.
- AgriLife submitted Invoice #R109466, covering November 1, 2018-November 30, 2018, for a total of \$3,970.98.
- AgriLife submitted Invoice #R109719, covering December 1, 2018-December 31, 2018, for a total of \$3,822.83.
- AgriLife submitted Invoice #R109924, covering January 1, 2019-January 31, 2019, for a total of \$3,773.22.
- AgriLife submitted Invoice #R110091, covering February 1, 2019-February 28, 2019, for a total of \$5,500.92.
- AgriLife submitted Invoice #R110283, covering March 1, 2019-March 31, 2019, for a total of \$4,4169.99.
- AgriLife submitted Invoice #R110474, covering April 1, 2019-April 30, 2019, for a total of \$9,443.25.
- AgriLife submitted Invoice #R110626, covering May 1, 2019-May 31, 2019, for a total of \$5,439.13.
- AgriLife submitted Invoice #R110822, covering June 1, 2019-June 30, 2019, for a total of \$6,470.06.
- AgriLife submitted Invoice #R111036, covering July 1, 2019-July 31, 2019, for a total of \$6,217.39.

- AgriLife submitted Invoice #R111200, covering August 1, 2019-August 31, 2019, for a total of \$7,394.94.
- AgriLife submitted Invoice #R111394, covering September 1, 2019-September 30, 2019, for a total of \$18,401.13.
- AgriLife submitted Invoice #R111646, covering October 1, 2019-October 31, 2019, for a total of \$19,009.98.
- AgriLife submitted Invoice #R111803, covering November 1, 2019-November 30, 2019, for a total of \$16,725.86.
- AgriLife submitted Invoice #R111989, covering December 1, 2019-December 31, 2019, for a total of \$15,263.84.
- AgriLife submitted Invoice #R112222, covering January 1, 2020-January 31, 2020, for a total of \$17,899.90.
- AgriLife submitted Invoice #R112377, covering February 1, 2020-February 29, 2020, for a total of \$31,193.82.
- AgriLife submitted Invoice #R112566, covering March 1, 2020-March 31, 2020, for a total of \$22,182.76.
- AgriLife submitted Invoice #R112765, covering April 1, 2020-April 30, 2020, for a total of \$58,084.32.
- AgriLife submitted Invoice #R112902, covering May 1, 2020-May 31, 2020, for a total of \$16,567.85.
- TWRI requested a two-month, no-cost extension in November 2019. This moved the end date of the project to May 31, 2020.
- TWRI submitted budget revision requests during Quarters 5, 7 and 8.

### Subtask 1.3: Project Coordination

- TWRI attended a project kick off meeting with TSSWCB to discuss project details and water quality monitoring stations on June 1, 2018.
- TWRI scheduled the first quarterly call for August 22, 2018.
- TWRI scheduled the second quarterly call for November 27, 2018.
- TWRI scheduled the third quarterly call for February 11, 2019.
- TWRI scheduled the fourth quarterly call for May 22, 2019.
- TWRI scheduled the fifth quarterly call for August 28, 2019.
- TWRI scheduled the sixth quarterly call for November 12, 2019.
- TWRI scheduled the seventh quarterly call for February 5, 2020.
- TWRI scheduled the eighth quarterly call for April 24, 2020.

### Subtask 1.4: Final Report

- TWRI developed this Final Report summarizing project activities and conclusions. The Final Report was submitted to the TSSWCB on May 29, 2020.

## **Appendix B: Task 2 – Quality Assurance**

### **Subtask 2.1: QAPP Development**

- TWRI began developing the QAPP for the project in June 2018. A draft QAPP was sent to the TSSWCB on July 16, 2018 and comments on the draft were received by TWRI on August 17, 2018.
- The project QAPP was approved by the TSSWCB on December 4, 2018.

### **Subtask 2.2: QAPP Implementation**

- Water quality monitoring began in December 2018 after the QAPP was approved by TSSWCB.
- A QAPP amendment was completed and approved by the TSSWCB on February 6, 2019.
- A QAPP amendment was completed and approved by the TSSWCB on March 13, 2019.
- A QAPP revision was completed and approved by the TSSWCB on December 6, 2019.

## Appendix C: Task 3 – Public Outreach, Education and Involvement

### Subtask 3.1: Public Education

- TWRI helped coordinate and facilitate two TWON Well Educated Workshops in Caldwell, Texas on September 11, 2018 and in Milano, Texas on September 12, 2018 for the Davidson Creek watershed.
- TWRI coordinated and helped facilitate a TWON Well Educated Workshop in Marlin, Texas on February 22, 2019 for the Deer Creek watershed.
- TWRI coordinated and helped facilitate a Wild Pig Management Workshop in Lincoln, Texas on May 7, 2019 for the Middle Yegua Creek watershed.
- TWRI helped coordinate and facilitate two TWON Well Educated Workshops in Caldwell, Texas and Milano, Texas on September 16, 2019 for the Davidson Creek watershed.
- TWRI coordinated and helped facilitate a TWON Well Educated Workshop in Lincoln, Texas on November 19, 2019 for the Middle Yegua Creek watershed.
- TWRI coordinated a Texas Riparian and Stream Ecosystem Workshop in Marlin, Texas on April 28, 2020 for the Deer Creek watershed but the event had to be postponed to Fall 2020 due to COVID-19.

### Subtask 3.2: Coordination of Stakeholder Group Activities

- TWRI presented to stakeholders at the Lee County SWCD on October 10, 2019 in Giddings, Texas. The presentation covered information on the Middle Yegua Creek watershed characterization, water quality monitoring and future possibilities for watershed planning.
- TWRI presented to stakeholders at the Burleson County SWCD on January 16, 2020 in Caldwell, Texas. The presentation covered information on the Davidson Creek watershed characterization, water quality monitoring and future possibilities for watershed planning.
- TWRI had planned on presenting to stakeholders at the Central Texas SWCD on March 17, 2020 in Belton, Texas but was unable to due to COVID-19. The presentation would have covered information on the Deer Creek watershed characterization, water quality monitoring and future possibilities for watershed planning.

### Subtask 3.3: Dissemination of Project Information

- TWRI presented an update on the characterization and water quality monitoring for Middle Yegua Creek, Davidson Creek and Deer Creek at the Brazos Basin Clean Rivers Program Steering Committee meeting on April 11, 2019 in Waco, Texas.
- TWRI developed a project webpage (<https://twri.tamu.edu/our-work/restoring-protecting/middle-yegua-creek-davidson-creek-deer-creek-water-quality/>) during Quarter 2 and updated it quarterly with upcoming events in the watersheds. The Characterization Report and Final Report were also included on the webpage.

- TWRI sent out one direct mailing to the stakeholders in the watersheds. A copy of the Characterization Report was emailed to all three SWCDs on May 29, 2020.



## Appendix D: TWON Well Educated Workshop Agendas

# TEXAS WELL OWNER NETWORK: AGENDA

September 11, 2018 - Caldwell, TX  
1 – 5 p.m.

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### ***Sign-In/Pre-test/Water Samples***

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### ***Introduction, Post Oak Savannah GCD***

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### ***Davidson and Middle Yegua Creek Watersheds Characterization - TWRI***

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#### ***Aquifers in Texas***

Water in the World

Functions of an Aquifer

Aquifers of Texas

#### ***Private Water Well Basics***

Existing Information About Your Well

Well Siting Regulations

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### ***Ask the Well Man! – Pete Brien, Brien Water Wells***

Common water well questions from the audience

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### ***BREAK***

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### ***Onsite Wastewater Treatment***

What is an On Site Sewage Facility?

Evolution of Onsite Wastewater Treatment

Function of a Septic System

When Should a Septic Tank be Pumped?

How to Live with a Septic

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### ***BREAK***

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### ***Water Quality and Testing***

Drinking Water Standards

Common Contaminants

Testing: Why? When? What?

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### ***Water Treatment Options***

Treating Bacteria

Filtration

Ion Exchange

Treatment Options from Symptoms

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### ***Questions, Discussions, Post-Test and Evaluations***

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# TEXAS WELL OWNER NETWORK: AGENDA

September 12, 2018 - Milano, TX  
1 – 5 p.m.

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## ***Sign-In/Pre-test/Water Samples***

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## ***Introduction, Post Oak Savannah GCD***

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## ***Davidson and Middle Yegua Creek Watersheds Characterization - TWRI***

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### ***Aquifers in Texas***

Water in the World  
Functions of an Aquifer  
Aquifers of Texas

### ***Private Water Well Basics***

Existing Information About Your Well  
Well Siting Regulations

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## ***Ask the Well Man! – Pete Brien, Brien Water Wells*** Common water well questions from the audience

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## ***BREAK***

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### ***Onsite Wastewater Treatment***

What is an On Site Sewage Facility?  
Evolution of Onsite Wastewater Treatment  
Function of a Septic System  
When Should a Septic Tank be Pumped?  
How to Live with a Septic

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## ***BREAK***

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### ***Water Quality and Testing***

Drinking Water Standards  
Common Contaminants  
Testing: Why? When? What?

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### ***Water Treatment Options***

Treating Bacteria  
Filtration  
Ion Exchange  
Treatment Options from Symptoms

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## ***Questions, Discussions, Post-Test and Evaluations***

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# TEXAS WELL OWNER NETWORK: AGENDA

September 16, 2019

Post Oak Savannah Groundwater Conservation District

9 – 11 a.m. @ Milano

1 – 3 p.m. @ Caldwell

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## ***Sign-In/Pre-test***

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## ***Introduction, Post Oak Savannah GCD***

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### ***Aquifers in Texas***

Water in the World

Functions of an Aquifer

Aquifers of Texas

### ***Private Water Well Basics***

Existing Information About Your Well

Well Siting Regulations

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## ***BREAK***

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### ***Water Quality and Testing***

Drinking Water Standards

Common Contaminants

Testing: Why? When? What?

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### ***Water Treatment Options***

Treating Bacteria

Filtration

Ion Exchange

Treatment Options from Symptoms

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### ***Protecting Your Water Supply***

Abandoned Wells

Capping or Plugging Abandoned Wells

Homeowner's Maintenance Checklist

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## ***Questions, Discussions, Post-Test and Evaluations***

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## Appendix E: TWON Well Educated Workshop Press Releases

AGRI LIFE **TODAY**  
(<https://agrifetoday.tamu.edu/>)

### Texas Well Owner Network training set for Feb. 22 in Marlin

February 9, 2019

Contact: Dr. Drew Gholson, 979-845-1461, [dgholson@tamu.edu](mailto:dgholson@tamu.edu)

MARLIN — A Texas Well Owner Network, or TWON, training has been scheduled for 1-5 p.m. Feb. 22 at the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service office in the Falls County Courthouse, 125 Bridge St., County Court Room 110 in Marlin.

The Well Educated training for private water well owners is free and open to the public.

Dr. Drew Gholson, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service program specialist and TWON coordinator, College Station, said the program is for Texas residents who depend on household wells for their water needs.



A Texas Well Owner Network training will be held Feb. 22 in Marlin. (Texas Well Owners network photo)

"The program was established to help well owners become familiar with Texas groundwater resources, septic system maintenance, well maintenance and construction, and water quality and treatment," he said. "It allows them to learn more about how to improve and protect their community water resources."

He said participants may bring well-water samples to the training for screening at a cost of \$10 per sample, due when samples are turned in.

"Water samples will be screened for nitrates, total dissolved solids and bacteria," Gholson said.

Well owners who would like to have their well water sampled can pick up two sample containers from the AgriLife Extension office in Falls County and the AgriLife Extension office in Robertson County, 2458 N. Farm-to-Market 46.

Gholson said bringing water samples to the training is not required, but those wanting to have water samples analyzed must attend.



Attendees can bring well water samples to be screened for nitrates, dissolved solids and bacteria. (Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service photo)

Attendees can register at <http://twon.tamu.edu/training> (<http://twon.tamu.edu/training>) or by calling 979-845-1461.

"Private well owners are responsible for all aspects of ensuring their drinking water system is safe, including testing, inspecting and maintaining water quality," Gholson said. "This training will help private well owners better understand and care for their wells."

Funding for TWON is through a Clean Water Act nonpoint source grant provided by the Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. The project is managed by the TWRI, part Texas A&M AgriLife Research (<http://agriliferesearch.tamu.edu/>), AgriLife Extension (<http://agrilifeextension.tamu.edu/>) and the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences (<http://aglifesciences.tamu.edu/>) at Texas A&M University (<http://www.tamu.edu/>).

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AgriLife Today

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Contact: 979-458-6341 | [news@ag.tamu.edu](mailto:news@ag.tamu.edu)

## Water well owner training set for Nov. 19 in Lincoln

November 3, 2019

A [Texas Well Owner Network](http://twon.tamu.edu/) (<http://twon.tamu.edu/>), or TWON, training has been scheduled for 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Nov. 19 at the Lincoln Community Hall, 1066 Main St. in Lincoln.



The Texas Well Owner Network will present a "Well Educated" training and well water screening opportunity Nov. 19 in Lincoln. (Texas Well Owner Network photo)

[Well Educated](http://twon.tamu.edu/training/) (<http://twon.tamu.edu/training/>) training is free and open to the public.

Joel Pigg, [Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service](https://agriflifeextension.tamu.edu/) (<https://agriflifeextension.tamu.edu/>) program specialist and TWON coordinator, College Station, said the program is for Texas residents who depend on household wells for their water needs.

"The program was established to help well owners become familiar with Texas groundwater resources, septic system maintenance, well maintenance and construction, and water quality and treatment," he said. "It allows them to learn more about how to improve and protect their community water resources."

He said participants may bring well-water samples to the training for screening at a cost of \$10 per sample, due when samples are turned in.

"Water samples will be screened for nitrates, total dissolved solids and bacteria," Pigg said.

Well owners who would like to have their well water sampled can pick up two sample containers from the AgriLife Extension office in [Lee County](https://lee.agrilife.org/) (<https://lee.agrilife.org/>), 310 S. Grimes St. in Giddings, or the AgriLife Extension office in [Bastrop County](https://bastrop.agrilife.org/) (<https://bastrop.agrilife.org/>), 901 Pecan St. in Bastrop.

Pigg said bringing water samples to the training is not required, but those wanting to have water samples analyzed must attend.

Attendees can register at <http://twon.tamu.edu/training> (<http://twon.tamu.edu/training>) or by calling 979-845-1461.



"The training is one of several being conducted statewide through the Texas Well Owner Network project," Pigg said.

More than a million private water wells in Texas provide water to citizens in rural areas and increasingly to those living on small acreages at the growing rural-urban interface. And private well owners are independently responsible for monitoring the quality of their wells.

"They are responsible for all aspects of ensuring their drinking water system is safe — testing, inspecting and maintaining," Pigg said. "This training will help private well owners understand and care for their wells."

Funding for the Texas Well Owner Network is through a Clean Water Act nonpoint source grant provided by the Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. The project is managed by the Texas Water Resources Institute, part of [Texas A&M AgriLife Research](http://agriliferesearch.tamu.edu/) (<http://agriliferesearch.tamu.edu/>), [AgriLife Extension](http://agrilifeextension.tamu.edu/) (<http://agrilifeextension.tamu.edu/>) and the [College of Agriculture and Life Sciences](http://aglifesciences.tamu.edu/) (<http://aglifesciences.tamu.edu/>) at [Texas A&M University](http://www.tamu.edu/) (<http://www.tamu.edu/>).



Well water sampling bottles. (Texas Well Owner Network photo)

-30-



AgriLife Today

+1 (979) 458-6341

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## Appendix F: Wild Pig Management Workshop Agenda

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service  
Lee County  
310 South Grimes  
Giddings, TX 78942  
(979) 542-2753  
(979) 542-2362 FAX



### Wild Pig Management Workshop

May 7, 2019

Lincoln Community Center

Pre-registration: Required

Optional Lunch Cost: \$15 pre-registration (\$20 at the door)

4 Hours pending TDA CEU's for Commercial, Non-Commercial & Private Applicators

(3 hours General and 1 hour Laws and Regulations)

- 8:15 a.m. Registration
- 8:30 a.m. Wild Pig Biology, Impacts and Control Techniques  
– Josh Helcel, Texas A&M Natural Resources Institute
- 9:30 a.m. Laws and Regulations for Wild Pigs  
– Adam Broll, Game Warden, Texas Parks and Wildlife
- 10:30 a.m. (Break)
- 11:00 a.m. Wild Pig Safety and Disease Concerns & Transportation Regulations  
– Dr. Tommy Barton, DVM, Texas Animal Health Commission
- 12:00 p.m. Catered Lunch
- 1:00 p.m. Demonstration: Snaring/Trapping Wild Pigs  
– Jacob Hetzel, Texas Wildlife Services
- 2:00 p.m. Evaluations & Adjourn

Please **PRE-REGISTER** by 5:00 PM on **April 30** with the Lee County Extension Office, 310 South Grimes, Giddings, 979-542-2753, or at [lee\\_county@agnet.tamu.edu](mailto:lee_county@agnet.tamu.edu) to ensure an accurate count for the meal and handouts. Individuals with disabilities are encouraged to contact the Extension office two days prior to the event so accommodations can be made. This event is provided through a Clean Water Act Section 319(h) nonpoint source grant from the Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

## Appendix G: Texas Riparian and Stream Ecosystem Workshop Agenda



### Deer Creek Watershed Agenda ~ April 28, 2020

- 8:00 Meeting Registration
- 8:15 Welcome & Introductions
- 8:30 Program Overview, Watershed Management and Water Quality
  - Clare Escamilla, Texas Water Resources Institute (TWRI)
- 9:20 How Creeks Function & Bear Creek Example
  - Melissa Parker, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD)
- 10:10 Break
- 10:25 Riparian Vegetation
  - Dennis Brezina, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)
- 11:15 Management Practices, Local Resources and Photo Monitoring of Streams
  - Clare Escamilla, TWRI
- 12:05 Lunch
- 12:20 Lunchtime Presentation: Deer Creek Characterization
  - Stephanie DeVilleneuve, TWRI
- 12:50 Roles of Forests and Trees in Watershed Protection
  - Lori Hazel, Texas A&M Forest Service
- 1:20 Trip to the Creek
  - Creek Walk: Lead by NRCS and TPWD
  - Agricultural Nonpoint Source Program: Kyle Wright, NRCS
  - Feral Hog Education: Josh Helcel, Texas A&M Natural Resource Institute
- 4:30 Wrap up and Head for Home!

<http://texasriparian.org/> and <https://www.facebook.com/TexasRiparianAssociation>



Funding provided through a Clean Water Act Section 319(h) nonpoint source grant from the Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

## Appendix H: Lee County SWCD Meeting Presentation – October 10, 2019

# Middle Yegua Creek Watershed

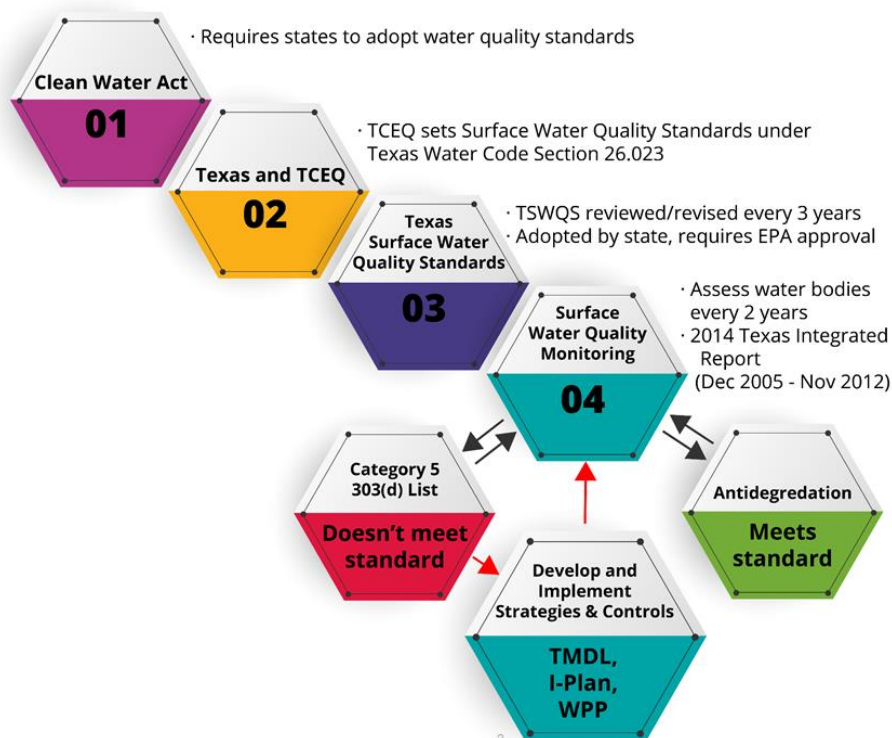
*Stephanie deVilleneuve*

*Allen Berthold*

*Texas Water Resources Institute*



1

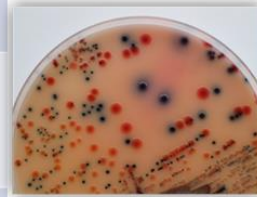


2



## Texas Surface Water Quality Standards

Designated Use	Criteria	Parameter
Primary Contact Recreation	<b>126 MPN/100 mL (FW)</b> 35 MPN/100 mL (Marine)	<b><i>E. coli</i> Bacteria (Freshwater)</b> Enterococci (Marine)
Secondary Contact Recreation 1	<b>630 MPN/100 mL (FW)</b> 175 MPN/100 mL (Marine)	<b><i>E. coli</i> Bacteria (Freshwater)</b> Enterococci (Marine)
High Aquatic Life Use	5.0 mg/L Average 3.0 mg/L Minimum	Dissolved Oxygen
General Use	6.5 – 9.0	pH

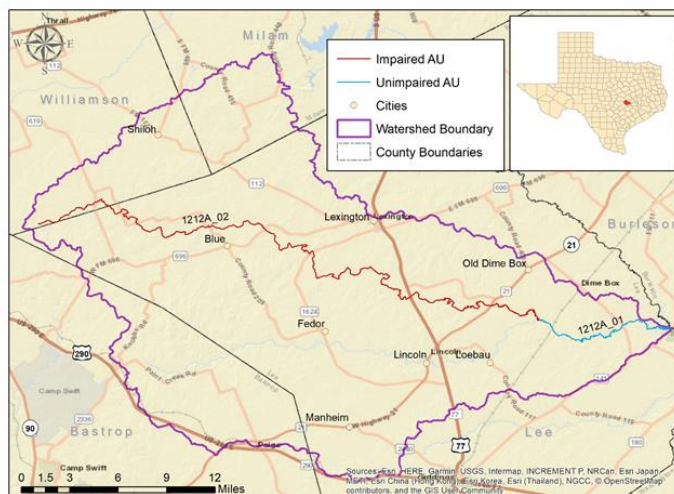


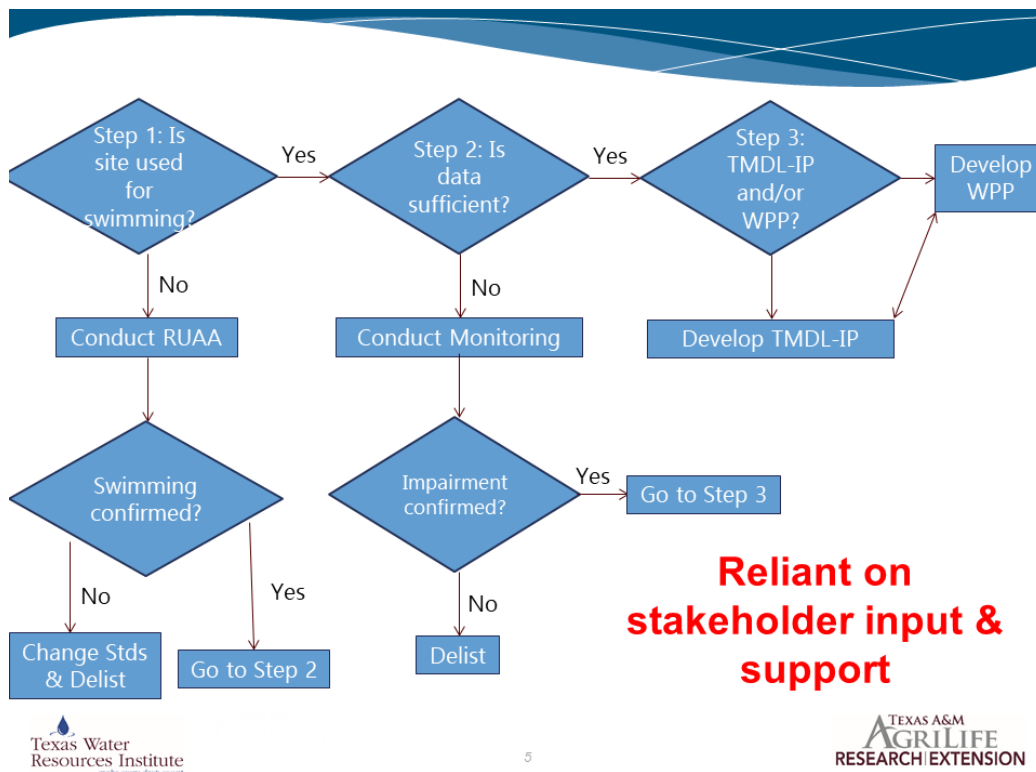
### Where does bacteria come from?



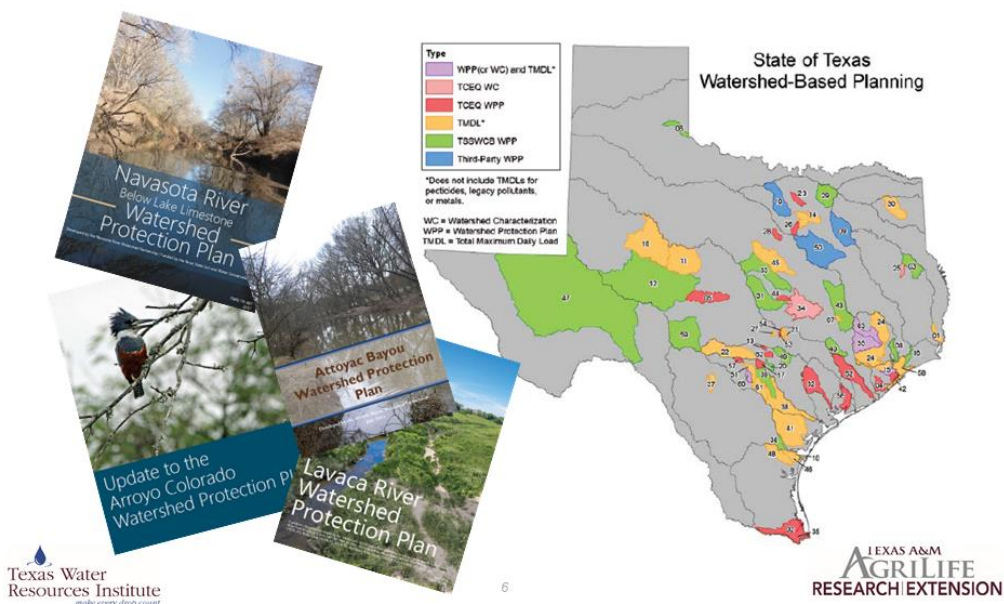
## Middle Yegua Creek Watershed

- First Listed in 2010 for Bacteria
- Confluence with East Yegua and Yegua Creeks in Lee County to Lee County/Williamson County line
- Data in handout

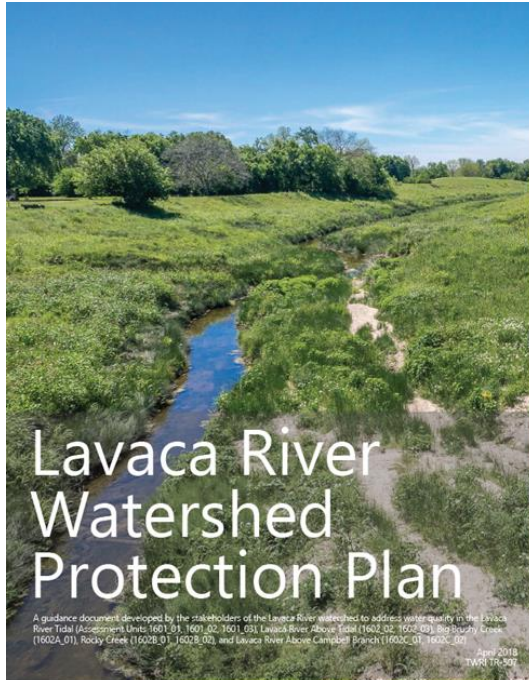




## Watershed-Based Plans Across Texas



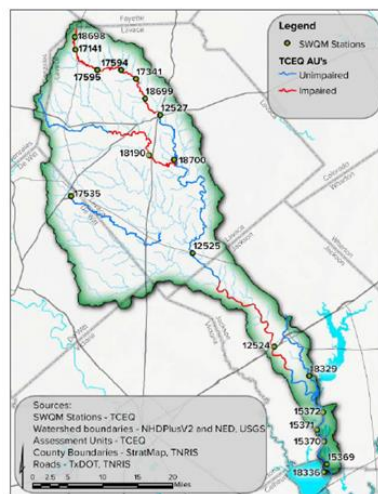




## Example Watershed Protection Plan

## Example Watershed Based Plan

- ◉ Lavaca River Watershed Protection Plan
- ◉ Problems: Excessive bacteria, low dissolved oxygen



## Chapter 1 – Introduction to Watershed Management

- Watersheds and Water Quality
- The Watershed Approach
- Watershed Protection Plan
- Adaptive Management
- Education and Outreach

### Chapter 1 Introduction to Watershed Management



A watershed is composed of an area of land that drains to a common body of water, such as a stream, river, wetland or ocean. All of the land surfaces that surround the water body where runoff drains are considered part of the watershed. Watersheds can be very small features that drain only a few square miles while larger watersheds can encompass numerous smaller watersheds and can drain large portions of states, such as the Colorado River watershed that includes 39,900 square miles of Texas and New Mexico.

The Lavaca River watershed is approximately 909 square miles and is composed of numerous smaller watersheds, such as Reddy-Creek, Big Branch-Creek and Dry Creek (Figure 1). The Lavaca River watershed is then part of the larger Merceda Bay watershed that includes the Nueces River, Tres Palcos River and a number of other creeks and rivers.

#### Watersheds and Water Quality

Natural processes and human activities can influence water quality and quantity within a watershed. For example, rain falling on the land area within a watershed might generate runoff that flows across agricultural fields, lawns, roadways, industrial sites, grasslands or forests.

Point source pollution is categorized as being discharged from a defined point or location, such as a pipe or a drain, and can be traced back to a single point of origin. This type of pollution is typically discharged directly into a water body and subsequently contributes to the water body's flow. Point sources of pollution that are permitted to discharge their effluents within specific pollutant limits must hold a permit through the Texas Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (TPDES).

Pollution that comes from a source that does not have a single point of origin is defined as nonpoint source (NPS) pollution. This type of pollution is generally composed of pollutants that are picked up and carried by runoff in stormwater during rain events. Runoff that travels across land can

Lavaca River Watershed Protection Plan

## Chapter 2 – Watershed Description

- Watershed Description
- Soils and Topography
- Land Use and Management
- Climate
- Demographics

#### Land Use and Land Management

The Lavaca River watershed is largely rural, with land use dominated by agriculture, pasture and forests, with some urban areas. The land use is generally dominated by agriculture, with some urban areas. The land use is generally dominated by agriculture, with some urban areas.



Figure 7. Land cover in the Lavaca River watershed.

In addition, the watershed contains some urban areas, but not any (USDA 2014). In DFW and Lavaca counties, the land use is generally dominated by agriculture, with some urban areas. The land use is generally dominated by agriculture, with some urban areas.

Climate

The climate in the watershed is generally dominated by agriculture, with some urban areas. The land use is generally dominated by agriculture, with some urban areas.

Figure 8. Area harvested

Figure 9. 10-year average watershed temperature and precipitation

Figure 10. Monthly, average daily low and high temperatures in January at 47°N

Figure 11. Monthly, average daily low and high temperatures in January at 47°N

Figure 12. Monthly, average daily low and high temperatures in January at 47°N

Figure 13. Monthly, average daily low and high temperatures in January at 47°N

Figure 14. Monthly, average daily low and high temperatures in January at 47°N

Figure 15. Monthly, average daily low and high temperatures in January at 47°N

Figure 16. Monthly, average daily low and high temperatures in January at 47°N

Figure 17. Monthly, average daily low and high temperatures in January at 47°N

Figure 18. Monthly, average daily low and high temperatures in January at 47°N

Figure 19. Monthly, average daily low and high temperatures in January at 47°N

Figure 20. Monthly, average daily low and high temperatures in January at 47°N

Figure 21. Monthly, average daily low and high temperatures in January at 47°N

Figure 22. Monthly, average daily low and high temperatures in January at 47°N

Figure 23. Monthly, average daily low and high temperatures in January at 47°N

Figure 24. Monthly, average daily low and high temperatures in January at 47°N

Figure 25. Monthly, average daily low and high temperatures in January at 47°N

Figure 26. Monthly, average daily low and high temperatures in January at 47°N

Figure 27. Monthly, average daily low and high temperatures in January at 47°N

Figure 28. Monthly, average daily low and high temperatures in January at 47°N

Figure 29. Monthly, average daily low and high temperatures in January at 47°N

Figure 30. Monthly, average daily low and high temperatures in January at 47°N

Figure 31. Monthly, average daily low and high temperatures in January at 47°N

Figure 32. Monthly, average daily low and high temperatures in January at 47°N

Figure 33. Monthly, average daily low and high temperatures in January at 47°N

Figure 34. Monthly, average daily low and high temperatures in January at 47°N

Figure 35. Monthly, average daily low and high temperatures in January at 47°N

Figure 36. Monthly, average daily low and high temperatures in January at 47°N

Figure 37. Monthly, average daily low and high temperatures in January at 47°N

Figure 38. Monthly, average daily low and high temperatures in January at 47°N

Figure 39. Monthly, average daily low and high temperatures in January at 47°N

## Chapter 3 – Water Quality

- Introduction
- Bacteria
- RUAA
- Dissolved Oxygen
- UAA
- Nutrients
- Flow
- Potential Sources of Water Quality Issues
- Water Quality Summary

Table 4. 2014 Texas Integrated Report Assessment Results for stream segments in the Lavaca River watershed currently monitored for bacteria (TCEQ 2016).

AU	Description	Current Standard	Geometric	Supporting/Not Supporting
1602_02	Lavaca River Above Tidal – From the confluence of Bear Branch upstream to the upper end of segment at the confluence of Campbell Branch in Hallettsville	126 cfu/100 mL E. coli	114.65	Fully Supporting
1602_03	Lavaca River Above Tidal – Lower portion of segment from confluence with NHD No. 12100101003463 south of Edna upstream to confluence with Bear Branch	126 cfu/100 mL E. coli	294.94	Not Supporting
1602B_01	Rocky Creek – From confluence of Lavaca River upstream to confluence of Ponton Creek	126 cfu/100 mL E. coli	222.16	Not Supporting

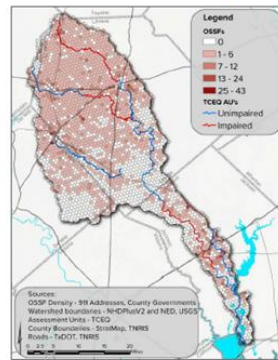
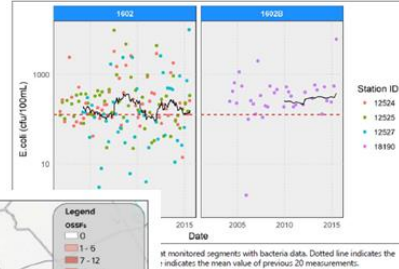


Figure 19. OSSF density.

## Chapter 4 – Pollutant Source Assessment

- Introduction
- Load Duration Curves
- Pollutant Source Load Estimates
- Load Reduction Summary

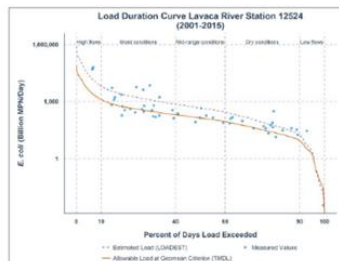


Figure 21. Load duration curve for Lavaca River SWQM Station 12524.

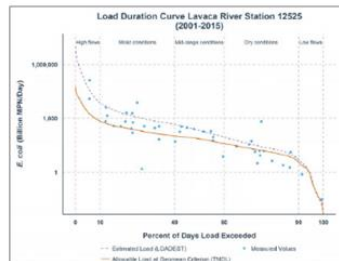


Figure 22. Load duration curve for Lavaca River SWQM Station 12525.

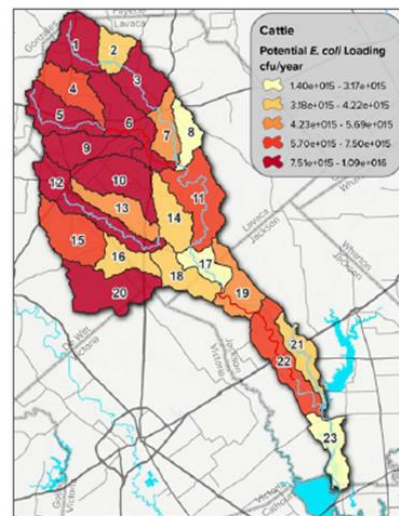


Figure 25. Potential annual bacteria loadings from cattle.



# Chapter 5 – Watershed Protection Plan Implementation Strategies

- Introduction
- Management Measures

Table 13. Available pasture and rangeland practices to improve water quality.

Practice	NRCS Code	Focus Area or Benefit
Brush management	314	Livestock, water quality, water quantity, wildlife
Fencing	382	Livestock, water quality
Filter strips	393	Livestock, water quality, wildlife
Grade stabilization structures	410	Water quality
Grazing land mechanical treatment	548	Livestock, water quality, wildlife
Heavy use area protection	562	Livestock, water quantity, water quality
Pond	378	Livestock, water quantity, water quality, wildlife
Prescribed burning	338	Livestock, water quality, wildlife
Prescribed grazing	528	Livestock, water quality, wildlife
Range/Pasture planting	550/512	Livestock, water quality, wildlife
Shade structure	N/A	Livestock, water quality, wildlife
Stream crossing	578	Livestock, water quality
Supplemental feed location	N/A	Livestock, water quality
Water well	642	Livestock, water quantity, wildlife
Watering facility	614	Livestock, water quantity

Table 14. Management measure 1: Promote and implement Water Quality Management Plans or conservation plans.

Sources: Cattle and Other Livestock			
<b>Problem:</b> Direct and indirect fecal bacteria loading due to livestock in streams, riparian degradation and overgrazing			
<b>Objectives:</b>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work with producers to develop conservation plans and WQMPs that improve grazing practices and water quality.</li> <li>• Provide technical and financial support to producers.</li> <li>• Reduce fecal loadings attributed to livestock.</li> </ul>			
<b>Critical Areas:</b> All properties with riparian habitat throughout the watershed and all properties in subwatersheds 1, 3, 5, 6, 9, 10, 12 and 20			
<b>Goal:</b> Develop and implement conservation plans and WQMPs that minimize time spent by livestock in riparian areas and better use available grazing resource on the property.			
<b>Description:</b> Conservation plans and WQMPs will be developed with producers to implement BMPs that reduce water quality impacts from overgrazing, time spent by livestock in and near streams, and runoff from grazed lands. Practices will be identified and developed in consultation with NRCS, TSSWCB and local SWCDs as appropriate. Education programs and workshops will support and promote the adoption of these practices.			
Implementation Strategy			
Participation	Recommendations	Period	Capital Costs
TSSWCB, SWCDs	Develop funding to hire WQMP technician.	2019-2029	Estimated \$75,000/yr
Producers, NRCS, TSSWCB, SWCDs	Develop, implement and provide financial assistance for 100 livestock conservation plans and WQMPs (including 30 in Rocky Creek subwatersheds).	2019-2029	\$1,500,000 (est. \$15,000/plan)
AgriLife Extension, TAMU	Deliver education and outreach programs and workshops (Lone Star Healthy Streams) to landowners.	2019, 2023, 2027	N/A
Estimated Load Reduction			
Prescribed management will reduce loadings associated with livestock by reducing runoff from pastures and rangeland as well as reducing direct deposition by livestock. Implementation of 100 WQMPs and conservation plans is estimated to reduce annual loads from livestock by 1.00x10 <sup>10</sup> cfu E. coli/yr in the Lavaca River. Of these 100 plans, at least 30 should be targeted toward the Rocky Creek watershed, which is estimated to reduce loads by 2.25x10 <sup>10</sup> cfu E. coli/yr. <sup>a</sup>			
<b>Effectiveness</b>	High – Decreasing the amount of time livestock spend in riparian areas and reducing runoff from pastures will directly reduce NPS contributions of bacteria in creeks.		
<b>Certainty</b>	Moderate – Landowners acknowledge the importance of good land stewardship practices and management plan objectives; however, financial incentives are often needed to promote the WQMP and conservation plan implementation.		
<b>Commitment</b>	Moderate – Landowners are willing to implement stewardship practices shown to improve productivity; however, because costs are often prohibitive, financial incentives are needed to increase implementation rates.		
<b>Needs</b>	High – Financial costs are a major barrier to implementation, education and outreach are also needed to demonstrate benefits to producers and their operations.		
<b>Potential Funding Sources</b>	Coastal Zone Management Program/Coastal Management Program (CZM program and CMP); EPA CWA §319(h) grant program; NRCS Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP); Conservation Innovation Grants (CIG); Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP); Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP).		

<sup>a</sup>Load reduction calculations described in Appendix B

<sup>b</sup>Funding sources described in Section 7.4

TEXAS A&M  
AGRI LIFE  
RESEARCH | EXTENSION

# Chapter 6 – Education and Outreach

- Watershed Coordinator
- Public Meetings
- Future Stakeholder Engagement
- Education Programs (Extension programs)
- Public Meetings
- Newsletters and News Releases

Table 22. Watershed stakeholders that will need to be engaged throughout the implementation of the WPP.

Lavaca River WPP Stakeholders	
Local residents, landowners, businesses	
Local governments – Edna, Hallettsville, Moulton, Shiner, Yoakum, Jackson County, Lavaca County	
State Agencies – TCEQ, TSSWCB, TPWD, AgriLife Extension	
Federal Agencies – USDA NRCS	
Regional Entities – LNRA staff and board members, SWCD boards	

## Future Stakeholder Engagement

Watershed stakeholders (Table 22) will be continually engaged throughout the entire process and following the transition of efforts from development to implementation of the WPP. The Watershed Coordinator will play a critical role in this transition by continuing to organize and host periodic public meetings and needed educational events in addition to seeking out and meeting with focused groups of stakeholders to find and secure implementation funds. The coordinator will also provide content to maintain and update the project website, track WPP implementation progress and participate in local events to promote watershed awareness and stewardship. News articles, newsletters and the project website will be primary tools used to communicate with watershed stakeholders on a regular basis and will be developed to update readers periodically on implementation progress, provide information on new implementation opportunities, inform them on available technical or financial assistance, and other items of interest related to the WPP effort.

## Education Programs

Educational programming will be a critical part of the WPP implementation process. Multiple programs geared toward providing information on various sources of potential pollutants and feasible management strategies will be delivered in and near the Lavaca River watershed and advertised to watershed stakeholders. An approximate schedule for planned programming is provided in Chapter 8. This schedule will be used as a starting point, and efforts will be made to abide by this schedule as much as possible. As implementation and data collection continues, the adaptive management process will be used to modify this schedule and respective educational needs as appropriate.

## Feral Hog Management Workshop

The Watershed Coordinator will coordinate with AgriLife Extension personnel to deliver periodic workshops focusing on feral hog management. This workshop will educate landowners on the negative impacts of feral hogs, effective control methods and resources to help them control these pests. Workshop frequency will be approximately every 3–5 years, unless there are significant changes in available means and methods to control feral hogs.

## Lone Star Healthy Streams Workshop

The Watershed Coordinator will coordinate with AgriLife Extension personnel to deliver the Lone Star Healthy Streams curriculum. This program is geared toward expanding stakeholders' knowledge on how beef cattle producers can improve grazing lands to reduce NPS pollution. This statewide program promotes the adoption of BMPs that have been proven to effectively reduce bacterial contamination of streams. This program provides educational support for the development of conservation plans by illustrating the benefits of many practices available for inclusion in a conservation plan to program participants. This program will likely be delivered in the watershed once every 5 years or as needed.

## OSSF Operation and Maintenance Workshop

Once OSSFs in the watershed and their owners have been identified, an OSSF rules, regulations, operation and maintenance training will be delivered in the watershed. This training will consist of education and outreach practices to promote the proper management of existing OSSFs and to garner support for efforts to further identify and address failing OSSFs through inspections and remedial actions. AgriLife Extension provides the needed expertise to deliver this training. Based on needs identified early during WPP planning, trainings will be scheduled for every third year. Additionally, an online training module that provides an overview of septic systems, how they operate and what maintenance is required to sustain proper functionality and extend system life will be made available to anyone interested through the partnership website. This training module was developed by the Guadalupe-Blanco River Authority in cooperation with AgriLife Extension and is currently available online at: [www.gbra.org/septic.pdf](http://www.gbra.org/septic.pdf).

## Chapter 7 – Resources to Implement the WPP

- Introduction
- Technical Assistance
- Financial Sources

Table 23. Summary of potential sources of technical assistance.

Technical Assistance	Potential Sources
Management Measure	
MM1: Promote and implement WQMPs or conservation plans	TSSWCB; local SWCDs; NRCS; AgriLife Extension
MM2: Promote technical and direct operational assistance to landowners for feral hog control	AgriLife Extension; TPWD; NRCS; TSSWCB
MM3: Identify and repair or replace failing on-site sewage systems	Lavaca County designated representative, Jackson County Office of Permitting; AgriLife Extension
MM4: Increase proper pet waste management	City public works departments; AgriLife Extension
MM5: Implement and expand urban and impervious surface stormwater runoff management	City public works departments; engineering firms; AgriLife Extension
MM6: Address inflow and infiltration	City public works departments; engineering firms; TCEQ
MM7: Reduce illicit dumping	AgriLife Extension; county law enforcement; TPWD game wardens

## Chapter 8 – Measuring Success

- Introduction
- Water Quality Targets
- Additional Data Collection Needs
- Data Review
- Interim Measurable Milestones
- Adaptive Management

Table 25. Lavaca River watershed management measures, responsible party, goals and estimated costs.

Management Measure	Responsible Party	Unit Cost	Implementation Goals (years after implementation begins)†										Total Cost
<b>Livestock</b>			1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	
Hire WQMP field technicians.	TSSWCB, SWCDs	\$75,000/yr											
Develop 100 WQMPs/conservation plans.	TSSWCB, SWCDs, NRCS	\$15,000	20		40		60		80		100		\$1,500,000
<b>Feral Hogs</b>													
Install feral hog enclosures.	Landowners	\$200							As many as possible				N/A
Feral hog removal	Landowners	N/A							15% reduction or > 2,439 hogs/yr				N/A
Develop and implement Wildlife Management Plans and Practices.	Landowners, TPWD, TSSWCB, NRCS	N/A							As many as possible				N/A
<b>OSSFs</b>													
Develop OSSF repair/replace-ment programs.	Watershed Coordinator, counties, AgriLife Extension	N/A							1				N/A
Repair/replace faulty OSSFs.	Homeowner	\$8,000			10		20		30		40		\$320,000
<b>Pet Waste</b>													
Install and maintain pet waste stations.	Cities	\$500 for stations plus \$100/yr/station			2		3		4		5		\$4,400
Develop educational and outreach materials.	Cities, AgriLife Extension, Watershed Coordinator	N/A							Develop and deliver annually				N/A
<b>Urban Stormwater</b>													
Identify and install potential stormwater BMP projects.	Cities	\$4,000 to \$45,000/acre treated							As many as possible				N/A
<b>SSOs and Unauthorized Discharges</b>													
Develop program to repair private connections contributing to I&I.	Cities, AgriLife Extension, property owners	N/A							1				N/A
Smoke testing and repair of faulty pipes and connections	Cities, contractors	\$2,000-\$2,500/mile; \$3,000-\$20,000/repair							As funding allows				N/A
Develop and deliver educational materials.	Cities, AgriLife Extension, TWRI	N/A							Develop and deliver annually				N/A

Appendix A – Potential  
Load Reductions

Appendix B – Load  
Reduction Calculations

Appendix C – Elements  
of Successful Watershed  
Protection Plans (9  
elements)



## Contact Us

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Project Webpage: <https://twri.tamu.edu/our-work/restoring-protecting/middle-yegua-creek-davidson-creek-deer-creek-water-quality/>

## Appendix I: Burleson County SWCD Meeting Presentation – January 16, 2020

# Davidson Creek Watershed

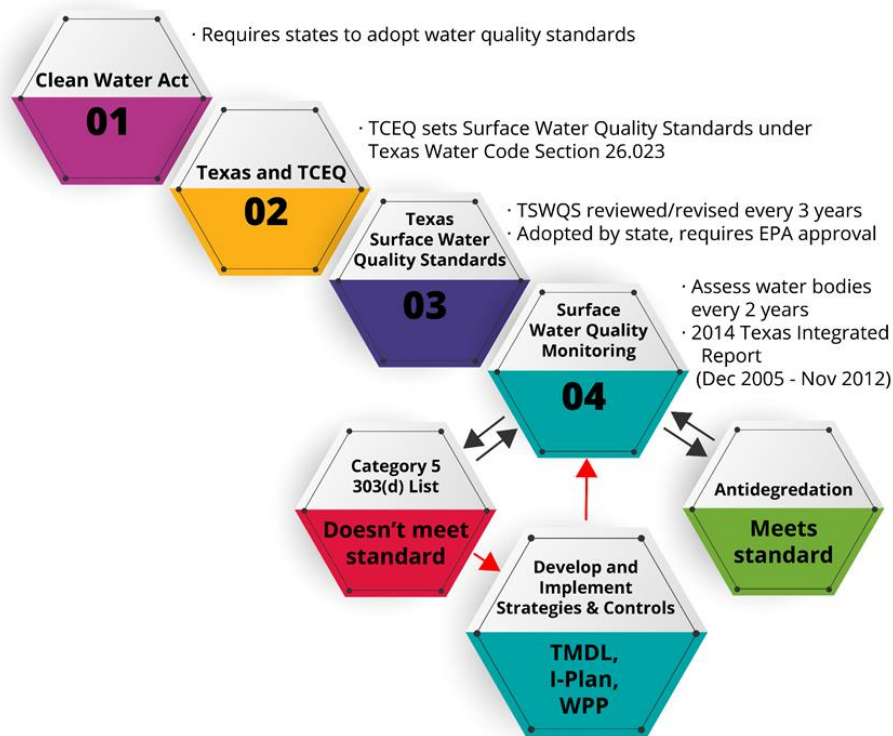
Stephanie deVilleneuve

Allen Berthold

Texas Water Resources Institute



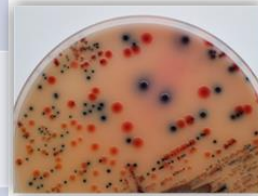
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## Texas Surface Water Quality Standards

Designated Use	Criteria	Parameter
Primary Contact Recreation	<b>126 MPN/100 mL (FW)</b> 35 MPN/100 mL (Marine)	<b><i>E. coli</i> Bacteria (Freshwater)</b> Enterococci (Marine)
Secondary Contact Recreation 1	<b>630 MPN/100 mL (FW)</b> 175 MPN/100 mL (Marine)	<b><i>E. coli</i> Bacteria (Freshwater)</b> Enterococci (Marine)
High Aquatic Life Use	5.0 mg/L Average 3.0 mg/L Minimum	Dissolved Oxygen
General Use	6.5 – 9.0	pH

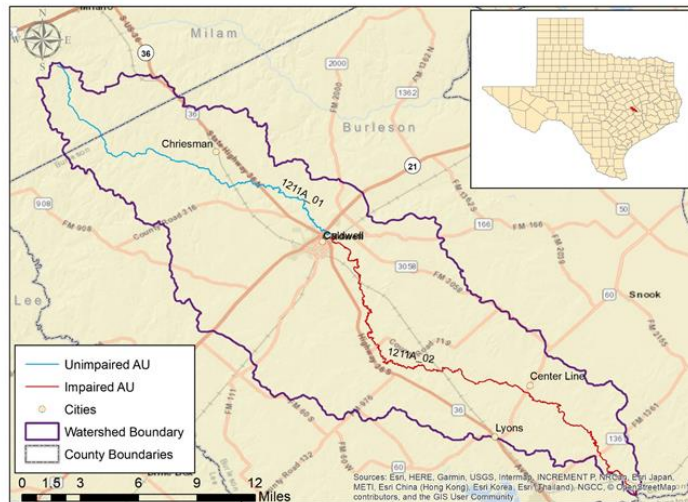


### Where does bacteria come from?

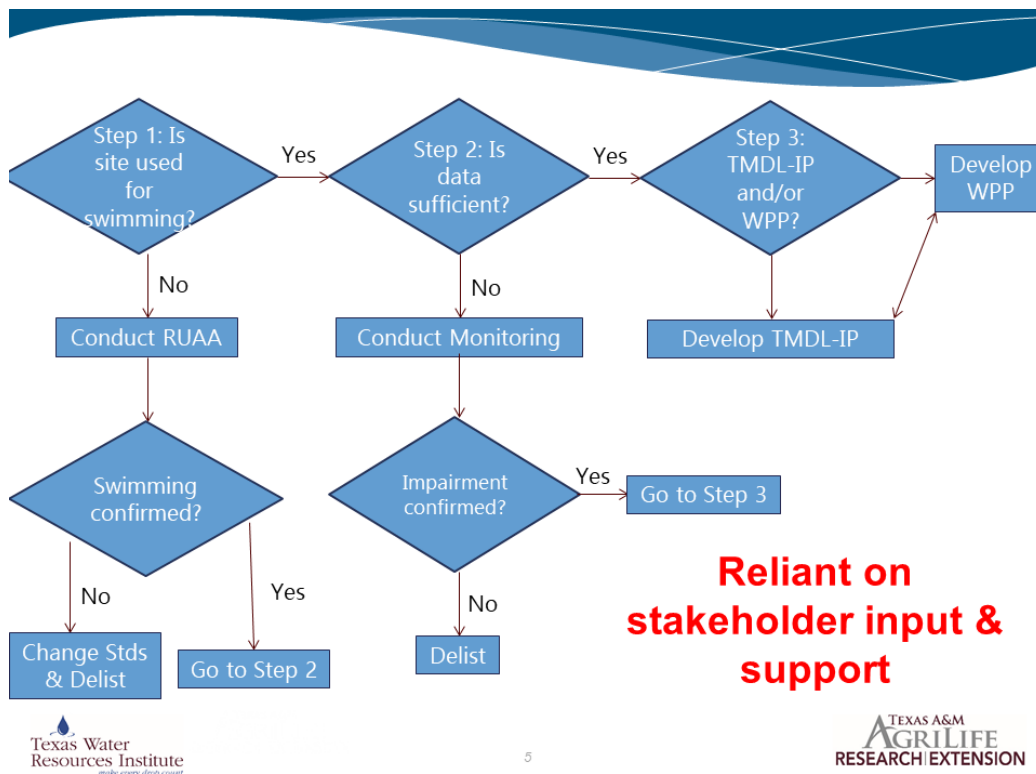


## Davidson Creek Watershed

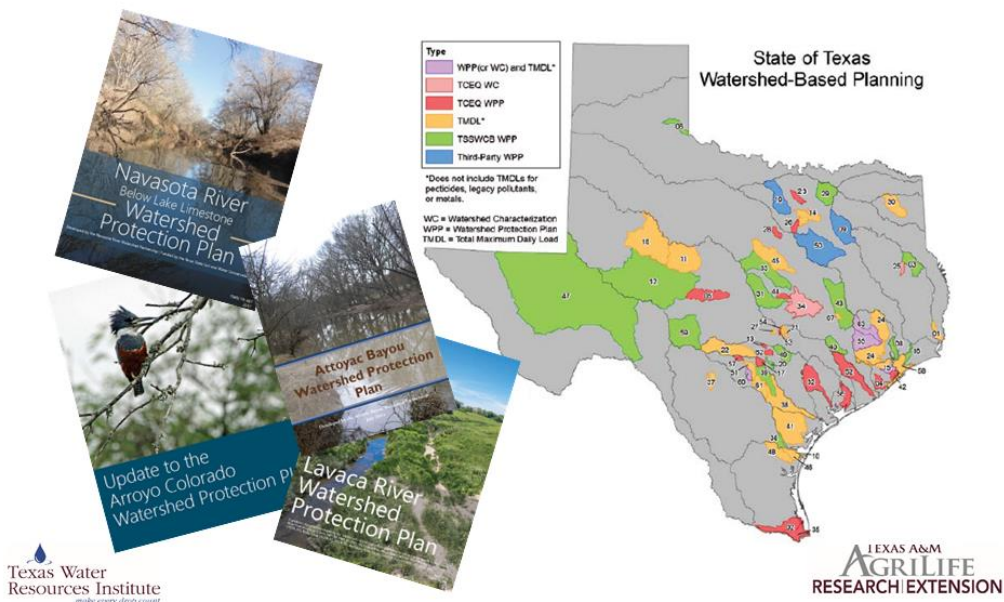
- First Listed in 2002 for Bacteria
- Listed in 2010 for Dissolved Oxygen
- Confluence of Yegua Creek upstream to above SH 21 near Caldwell
- Data in handout

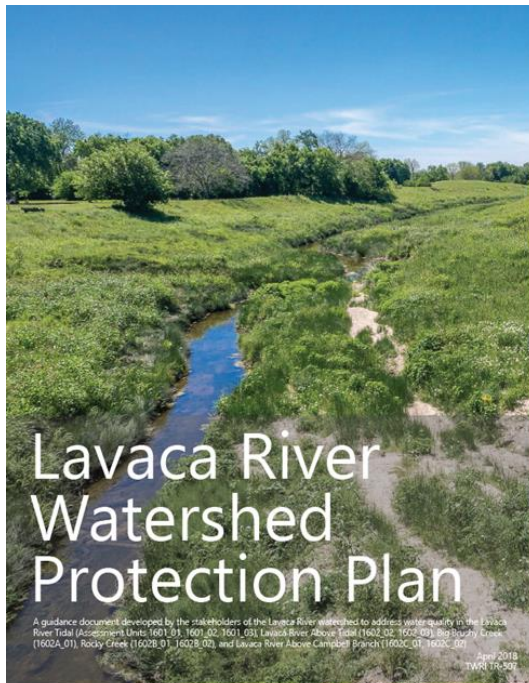






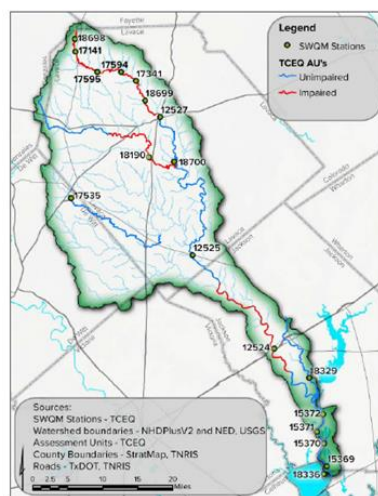
## Watershed-Based Plans Across Texas





## Example Watershed Protection Plan

## Example Watershed Based Plan



- Lavaca River Watershed Protection Plan
- Problems: Excessive bacteria, low dissolved oxygen

## Chapter 1 – Introduction to Watershed Management

- Watersheds and Water Quality
- The Watershed Approach
- Watershed Protection Plan
- Adaptive Management
- Education and Outreach

### Chapter 1 Introduction to Watershed Management



A watershed is composed of an area of land that drains to a common body of water, such as a stream, river, wetland or ocean. All of the land surfaces that surround the water body where runoff drains are considered part of the watershed. Watersheds can be very small features that drain only a few square miles while larger watersheds can encompass numerous smaller watersheds and can drain large portions of states, such as the Colorado River watershed that includes 39,900 square miles of Texas and New Mexico.

The Lavaca River watershed is approximately 909 square miles and is composed of numerous smaller watersheds, such as Reddy-Candy, Big Branch-Creek and Dry Creek (Figure 1). The Lavaca River watershed is then part of the larger Merceda Bay watershed that includes the Nueces River, Tres Palcos River and a number of other creeks and rivers.

#### Watersheds and Water Quality

Natural processes and human activities can influence water quality and quantity within a watershed. For example, rain falling on the land area within a watershed might generate runoff that flows across agricultural fields, lawns, roadways, industrial sites, grasslands or forests.

Point source pollution is categorized as being discharged from a defined point or location, such as a pipe or a drain, and can be traced back to a single point of origin. This type of pollution is typically discharged directly into a water body and subsequently contributes to the water body's flow. Point sources of pollution that are permitted to discharge their effluents within specific pollutant limits must hold a permit through the Texas Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (TPDES).

Pollution that comes from a source that does not have a single point of origin is defined as nonpoint source (NPS) pollution. This type of pollution is generally composed of pollutants that are picked up and carried by runoff in stormwater during rain events. Runoff that travels across land can

Lavaca River Watershed Protection Plan

## Chapter 2 – Watershed Description

- Watershed Description
- Soils and Topography
- Land Use and Management
- Climate
- Demographics

#### Land Use and Land Management

The Lavaca River watershed is largely rural, with land use dominated by agriculture, pasture and cropland, with some forest and urban areas. The watershed is located in the far west corner of the state, and is the only watershed in the state that is not adjacent to a major river or bay.

In addition to agriculture, the watershed is also home to a number of other land uses, including forests, cropland, and urban areas. The watershed is also home to a number of other land uses, including forests, cropland, and urban areas.



Figure 1. Location of the Lavaca River watershed.

#### Climate

The climate in the watershed is characterized by hot, humid summers and mild, wet winters. The average annual precipitation is approximately 48 inches.

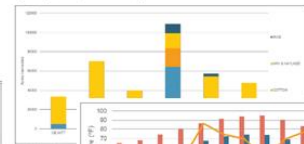


Figure 2. Average annual precipitation in the Lavaca River watershed by month.

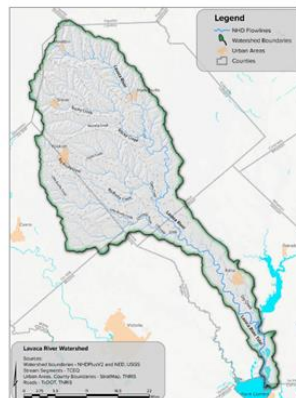


Figure 3. Water bodies of the Lavaca River watershed.

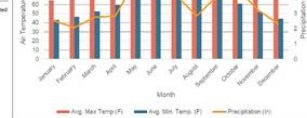


Figure 4. Average annual precipitation in the Lavaca River watershed by month.

Figure 5. 10-year average watershed temperature and precipitation.

Figure 6. Monthly, average daily low and high temperatures in January at 47°N.

Figure 7. Monthly, average daily low and high temperatures in January at 47°N.

Figure 8. Monthly, average daily low and high temperatures in January at 47°N.

Figure 9. Monthly, average daily low and high temperatures in January at 47°N.

Figure 10. Monthly, average daily low and high temperatures in January at 47°N.

Figure 11. Monthly, average daily low and high temperatures in January at 47°N.

Figure 12. Monthly, average daily low and high temperatures in January at 47°N.

Figure 13. Monthly, average daily low and high temperatures in January at 47°N.

Figure 14. Monthly, average daily low and high temperatures in January at 47°N.

Figure 15. Monthly, average daily low and high temperatures in January at 47°N.

Figure 16. Monthly, average daily low and high temperatures in January at 47°N.

Figure 17. Monthly, average daily low and high temperatures in January at 47°N.

Figure 18. Monthly, average daily low and high temperatures in January at 47°N.

Figure 19. Monthly, average daily low and high temperatures in January at 47°N.

Figure 20. Monthly, average daily low and high temperatures in January at 47°N.

Figure 21. Monthly, average daily low and high temperatures in January at 47°N.

Figure 22. Monthly, average daily low and high temperatures in January at 47°N.

Figure 23. Monthly, average daily low and high temperatures in January at 47°N.

Figure 24. Monthly, average daily low and high temperatures in January at 47°N.

Figure 25. Monthly, average daily low and high temperatures in January at 47°N.

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Figure 34. Monthly, average daily low and high temperatures in January at 47°N.

Figure 35. Monthly, average daily low and high temperatures in January at 47°N.

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Figure 37. Monthly, average daily low and high temperatures in January at 47°N.

Figure 38. Monthly, average daily low and high temperatures in January at 47°N.

Figure 39. Monthly, average daily low and high temperatures in January at 47°N.



## Chapter 3 – Water Quality

- Introduction
- Bacteria
- RUAA
- Dissolved Oxygen
- UAA
- Nutrients
- Flow
- Potential Sources of Water Quality Issues
- Water Quality Summary

Table 4. 2014 Texas Integrated Report Assessment Results for stream segments in the Lavaca River watershed currently monitored for bacteria (TCO 2016).

AU	Description	Current Standard	Geomean	Supporting/Not Supporting
1602_02	Lavaca River Above Tidal – From the confluence of Bear Branch upstream to the upper end of segment at the confluence of Campbell Branch in Hallettsville.	126 cfu/100 mL E. coli	114.65	Fully Supporting
1602_03	Lavaca River Above Tidal – Lower portion of segment from confluence with NHD RC 12100101003463 south of Edna upstream to confluence with Bear Branch.	126 cfu/100 mL E. coli	294.94	Not Supporting
1602B_01	Rocky Creek – From confluence of Lavaca River upstream to confluence of Panton Creek.	126 cfu/100 mL E. coli	222.16	Not Supporting

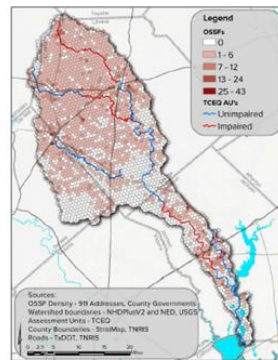
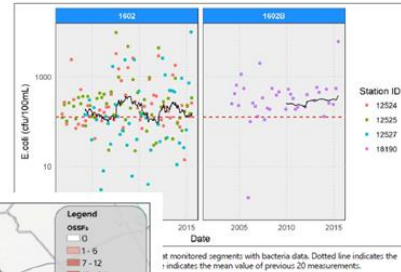


Figure 19. OSSF density.

## Chapter 4 – Pollutant Source Assessment

- Introduction
- Load Duration Curves
- Pollutant Source Load Estimates
- Load Reduction Summary

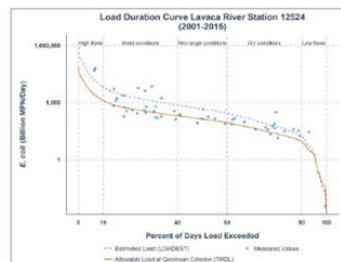


Figure 21. Load duration curve for Lavaca River SWQM Station 12524.

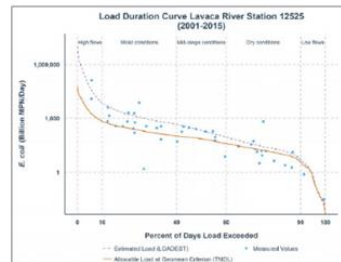


Figure 22. Load duration curve for Lavaca River SWQM Station 12525.

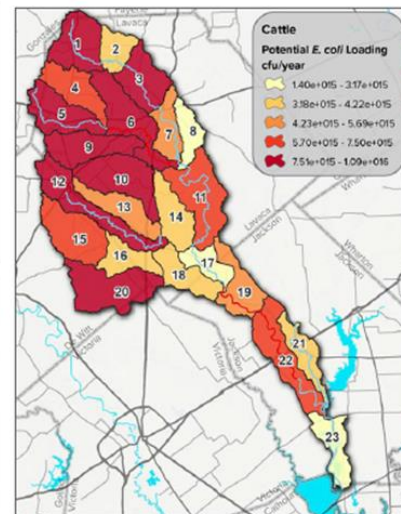


Figure 25. Potential annual bacteria loadings from cattle.

# Chapter 5 – Watershed Protection Plan Implementation Strategies

- Introduction
- Management Measures

Table 13. Available pasture and rangeland practices to improve water quality.

Practice	NRCS Code	Focus Area or Benefit
Brush management	314	Livestock, water quality, water quantity, wildlife
Fencing	382	Livestock, water quality
Filter strips	393	Livestock, water quality, wildlife
Grade stabilization structures	410	Water quality
Grazing land mechanical treatment	548	Livestock, water quality, wildlife
Heavy use area protection	562	Livestock, water quantity, water quality
Pond	378	Livestock, water quantity, water quality, wildlife
Prescribed burning	338	Livestock, water quality, wildlife
Prescribed grazing	528	Livestock, water quality, wildlife
Range/Pasture planting	550/512	Livestock, water quality, wildlife
Shade structure	N/A	Livestock, water quality, wildlife
Stream crossing	578	Livestock, water quality
Supplemental feed location	N/A	Livestock, water quality
Water well	642	Livestock, water quantity, wildlife
Watering facility	614	Livestock, water quantity

Table 14. Management measure 1: Promote and implement Water Quality Management Plans or conservation plans.

Source: Cattle and Other Livestock			
<b>Problem:</b> Direct and indirect fecal bacteria loading due to livestock in streams, riparian degradation and overgrazing			
<b>Objectives:</b>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Work with producers to develop conservation plans and WQMPs that improve grazing practices and water quality.</li> <li>Provide technical and financial support to producers.</li> <li>Reduce fecal loadings attributed to livestock.</li> </ul>			
<b>Critical Areas:</b> All properties with riparian habitat throughout the watershed and all properties in subwatersheds 1, 3, 5, 6, 9, 10, 12 and 20			
<b>Goal:</b> Develop and implement conservation plans and WQMPs that minimize time spent by livestock in riparian areas and better use available grazing resource on the property.			
<b>Description:</b> Conservation plans and WQMPs will be developed with producers to implement BMPs that reduce water quality impacts from overgrazing, time spent by livestock in and near streams, and runoff from grazed lands. Practices will be identified and developed in consultation with NRCS, TSSWCB and local SWCDs as appropriate. Education programs and workshops will support and promote the adoption of these practices.			
Implementation Strategy			
Participation	Recommendations	Period	Capital Costs
TSSWCB, SWCDs	Develop funding to hire WQMP technician.	2019-2029	Estimated \$75,000/yr
Producers, NRCS, TSSWCB, SWCDs	Develop, implement and provide financial assistance for 100 livestock conservation plans and WQMPs (including 30 in Rocky Creek subwatershed).	2019-2029	\$1,500,000 (est. \$15,000/plan)
AgriLife Extension, TAMU	Deliver education and outreach programs and workshops (Lone Star Healthy Streams) to landowners.	2019, 2023, 2027	N/A
Estimated Load Reduction			
Prescribed management will reduce loadings associated with livestock by reducing runoff from pastures and rangeland as well as reducing direct deposition by livestock. Implementation of 100 WQMPs and conservation plans is estimated to reduce annual loads from livestock by 1.00x10 <sup>10</sup> cfu E. coli/yr in the Lavaca River. Of these 100 plans, at least 30 should be targeted toward the Rocky Creek watershed, which is estimated to reduce loads by 2.25x10 <sup>10</sup> cfu E. coli/yr. <sup>a</sup>			
<b>Effectiveness</b>	High – Decreasing the amount of time livestock spend in riparian areas and reducing runoff from pastures will directly reduce NPS contributions of bacteria in creeks.		
<b>Certainty</b>	Moderate – Landowners acknowledge the importance of good land stewardship practices and management plan objectives; however, financial incentives are often needed to promote the WQMP and conservation plan implementation.		
<b>Commitment</b>	Moderate – Landowners are willing to implement stewardship practices shown to improve productivity; however, because costs are often prohibitive, financial incentives are needed to increase implementation rates.		
<b>Needs</b>	High – Financial costs are a major barrier to implementation, education and outreach are also needed to demonstrate benefits to producers and their operations.		
<b>Potential Funding Sources</b>	Coastal Zone Management Program/Coastal Management Program (CZM program and CMP); EPA CWA §319(h) grant program; NRCS Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP); Conservation Innovation Grants (CIG); Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP); Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP).		

<sup>a</sup>Load reduction calculations described in Appendix B

<sup>b</sup>Funding sources described in Section 7.4

TEXAS A&M  
AGRI LIFE  
RESEARCH | EXTENSION

## Chapter 6 – Education and Outreach

- Watershed Coordinator
- Public Meetings
- Future Stakeholder Engagement
- Education Programs (Extension programs)
- Public Meetings
- Newsletters and News Releases

Table 22. Watershed stakeholders that will need to be engaged throughout the implementation of the WPP.

Lavaca River WPP Stakeholders
Local residents, landowners, businesses
Local governments – Edna, Hallettsville, Moulton, Shiner, Yoakum, Jackson County, Lavaca County
State Agencies – TCEQ, TSSWCB, TPWD, AgriLife Extension
Federal Agencies – USDA NRCS
Regional Entities – LNRA staff and board members, SWCD boards

### Future Stakeholder Engagement

Watershed stakeholders (Table 22) will be continually engaged throughout the entire process and following the transition of efforts from development to implementation of the WPP. The Watershed Coordinator will play a critical role in this transition by continuing to organize and host periodic public meetings and needed educational events in addition to seeking out and meeting with focused groups of stakeholders to find and secure implementation funds. The coordinator will also provide content to maintain and update the project website, track WPP implementation progress and participate in local events to promote watershed awareness and stewardship. News articles, newsletters and the project website will be primary tools used to communicate with watershed stakeholders on a regular basis and will be developed to update readers periodically on implementation progress, provide information on new implementation opportunities, inform them on available technical or financial assistance, and other items of interest related to the WPP effort.

### Education Programs

Educational programming will be a critical part of the WPP implementation process. Multiple programs geared toward providing information on various sources of potential pollutants and feasible management strategies will be delivered in and near the Lavaca River watershed and advertised to watershed stakeholders. An approximate schedule for planned programming is provided in Chapter 8. This schedule will be used as a starting point, and efforts will be made to abide by this schedule as much as possible. As implementation and data collection continues, the adaptive management process will be used to modify this schedule and respective educational needs as appropriate.

### Feral Hog Management Workshop

The Watershed Coordinator will coordinate with AgriLife Extension personnel to deliver periodic workshops focusing on feral hog management. This workshop will educate landowners on the negative impacts of feral hogs, effective control methods and resources to help them control these pests. Workshop frequency will be approximately every 3–5 years, unless there are significant changes in available means and methods to control feral hogs.

### Lone Star Healthy Streams Workshop

The Watershed Coordinator will coordinate with AgriLife Extension personnel to deliver the Lone Star Healthy Streams curriculum. This program is geared toward expanding stakeholders' knowledge on how beef cattle producers can improve grazing lands to reduce NPS pollution. This statewide program promotes the adoption of BMPs that have been proven to effectively reduce bacterial contamination of streams. This program provides educational support for the development of conservation plans by illustrating the benefits of many practices available for inclusion in a conservation plan to program participants. This program will likely be delivered in the watershed once every 5 years or as needed.

### OSSF Operation and Maintenance Workshop

Once OSSFs in the watershed and their owners have been identified, an OSSF rules, regulations, operation and maintenance training will be delivered in the watershed. This training will consist of education and outreach practices to promote the proper management of existing OSSFs and to garner support for efforts to further identify and address failing OSSFs through inspections and remedial actions. AgriLife Extension provides the needed expertise to deliver this training. Based on needs identified early during WPP planning, trainings will be scheduled for every third year. Additionally, an online training module that provides an overview of septic systems, how they operate and what maintenance is required to sustain proper functionality and extend system life will be made available to anyone interested through the partnership website. This training module was developed by the Guadalupe-Blanco River Authority in cooperation with AgriLife Extension and is currently available online at: [www.gbra.org/septic.pdf](http://www.gbra.org/septic.pdf).

## Chapter 7 – Resources to Implement the WPP

- Introduction
- Technical Assistance
- Financial Sources

Table 23. Summary of potential sources of technical assistance.

Technical Assistance	Potential Sources
Management Measure	
MM1: Promote and implement WQMPs or conservation plans	TSSWCB; local SWCDs; NRCS; AgriLife Extension
MM2: Promote technical and direct operational assistance to landowners for feral hog control	AgriLife Extension; TPWD; NRCS; TSSWCB
MM3: Identify and repair or replace failing on-site sewage systems	Lavaca County designated representative, Jackson County Office of Permitting; AgriLife Extension
MM4: Increase proper pet waste management	City public works departments; AgriLife Extension
MM5: Implement and expand urban and impervious surface stormwater runoff management	City public works departments; engineering firms; AgriLife Extension
MM6: Address inflow and infiltration	City public works departments; engineering firms; TCEQ
MM7: Reduce illicit dumping	AgriLife Extension; county law enforcement; TPWD game wardens

## Chapter 8 – Measuring Success

- Introduction
- Water Quality Targets
- Additional Data Collection Needs
- Data Review
- Interim Measurable Milestones
- Adaptive Management

Table 25. Lavaca River watershed management measures, responsible party, goals and estimated costs.

Management Measure	Responsible Party	Unit Cost	Implementation Goals (years after implementation begins)†										Total Cost
			1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	
<b>Livestock</b>													
Hire WQMP field technician.	TSSWCB, SWCDs	\$75,000/yr					1						
Develop 100 WQMPs/conservation plans.	TSSWCB, SWCDs, NRCS	\$15,000	20	40		60		80		100			\$1,500,000
<b>Feral Hogs</b>													
Install feral hog enclosures.	Landowners	\$200					As many as possible						N/A
Feral hog removal	Landowners	N/A					15% reduction or > 2,439 hogs/yr						N/A
Develop and implement Wildlife Management Plans and Practices.	Landowners, TPWD, TSSWCB, NRCS	N/A					As many as possible						N/A
<b>OSSFs</b>													
Develop OSSF repair/replacement programs.	Watershed Coordinator, counties, AgriLife Extension	N/A					1						N/A
Repair/replace faulty OSSFs.	Homeowner	\$8,000		10		20		30		40			\$320,000
<b>Pet Waste</b>													
Install and maintain pet waste stations.	Cities	\$500 for stations plus \$100/yr/station		2		3		4		5			\$4,400
Develop educational and outreach materials.	Cities, AgriLife Extension, Watershed Coordinator	N/A					Develop and deliver annually						N/A
<b>Urban Stormwater</b>													
Identify and install potential stormwater BMP projects.	Cities	\$4,000 to \$45,000/acre treated					As many as possible						N/A
<b>SSOs and Unauthorized Discharges</b>													
Develop program to repair private connections contributing to I&I.	Cities, AgriLife Extension, property owners	N/A					1						N/A
Smoke testing and repair of faulty pipes and connections	Cities, contractors	\$2,000-\$2,500/mile; \$3,000-\$20,000/repair					As funding allows						N/A
Develop and deliver educational materials.	Cities, AgriLife Extension, TWRI	N/A					Develop and deliver annually						N/A



Appendix A – Potential  
Load Reductions

Appendix B – Load  
Reduction Calculations

Appendix C – Elements  
of Successful Watershed  
Protection Plans (9  
elements)



## Contact Us

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[Project Webpage: https://twri.tamu.edu/our-work/restoring-protecting/middle-yegua-creek-davidson-creek-deer-creek-water-quality/](https://twri.tamu.edu/our-work/restoring-protecting/middle-yegua-creek-davidson-creek-deer-creek-water-quality/)



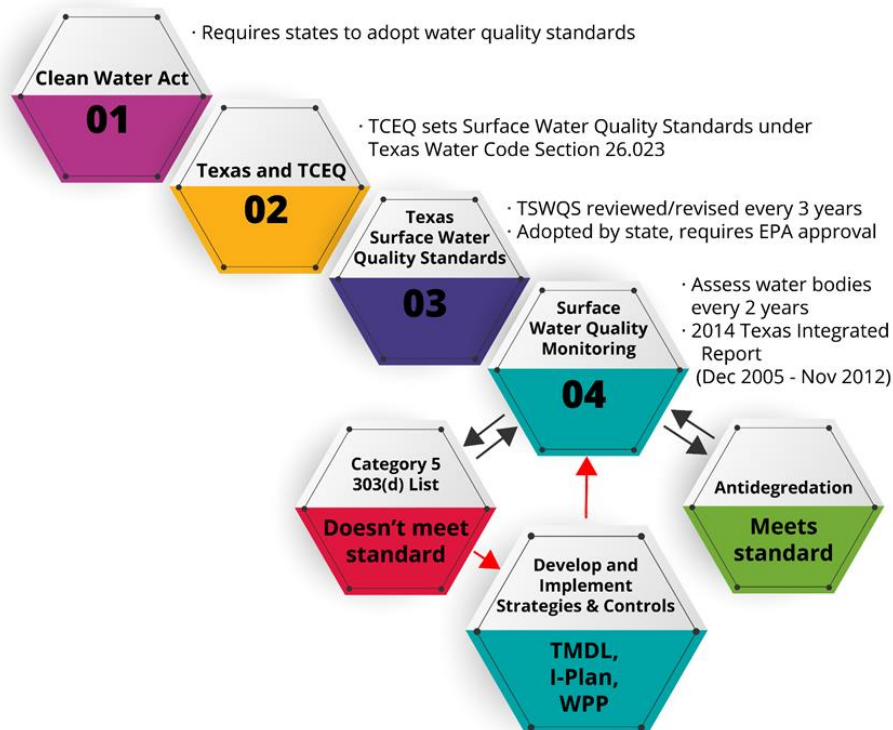
## Appendix J: Central Texas SWCD Meeting Presentation – March 17, 2020

# Deer Creek Watershed

*Stephanie deVilleneuve*

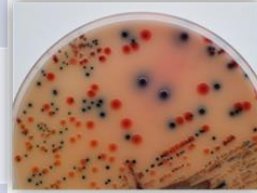
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High Aquatic Life Use	5.0 mg/L Average 3.0 mg/L Minimum	Dissolved Oxygen
General Use	6.5 – 9.0	pH

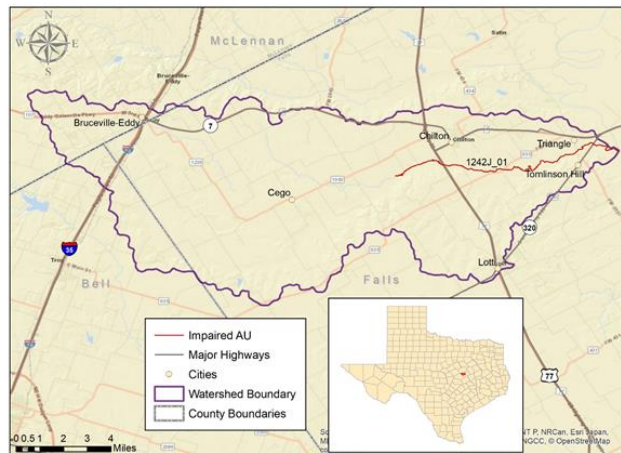


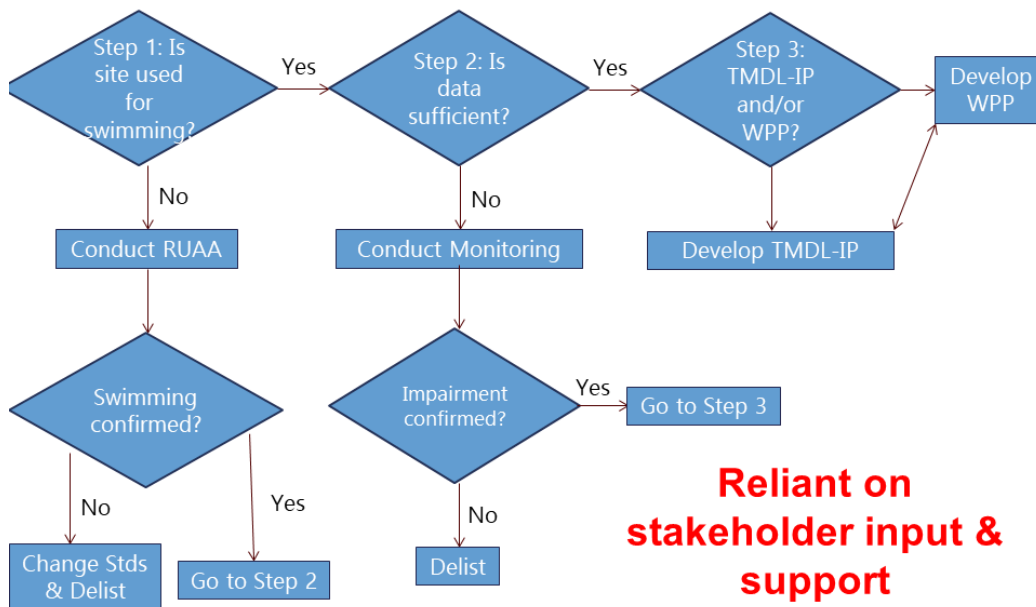
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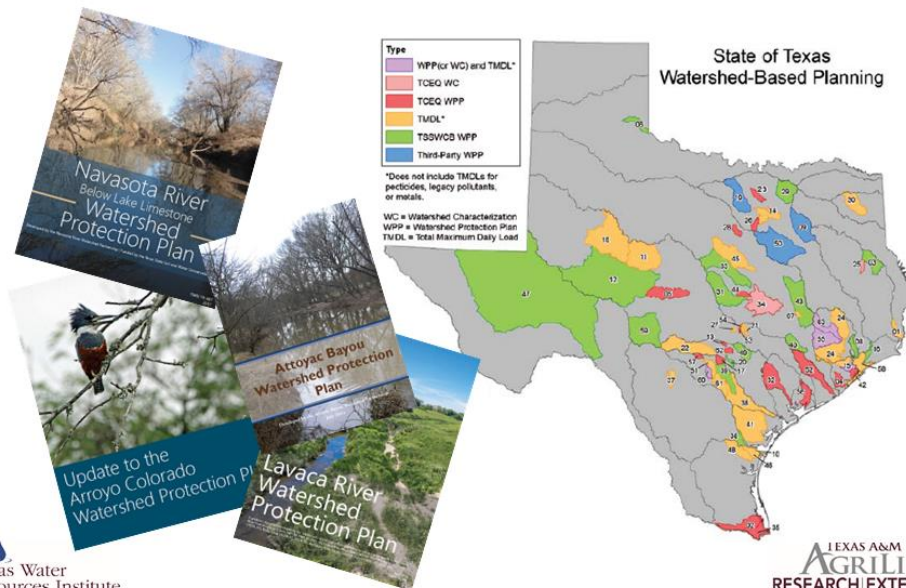
## Deer Creek Watershed

- First listed in 2006 for bacteria
- Perennial stream from the confluence of the Brazos River upstream to the confluence of Dog Branch northwest of Lott
- Data in handout

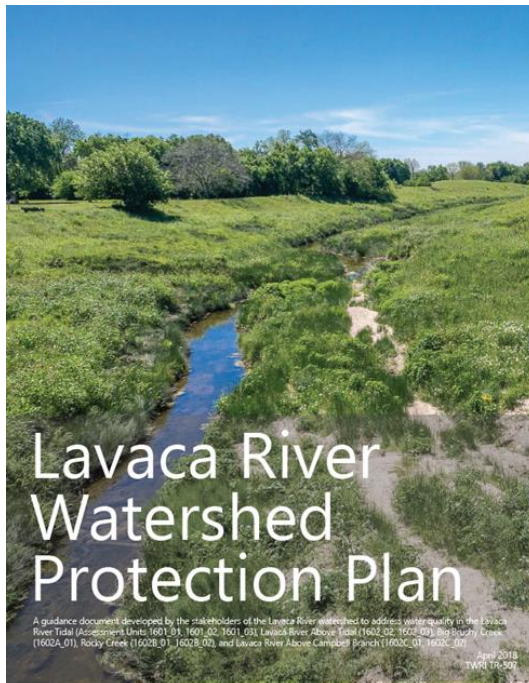




## Watershed-Based Plans Across Texas



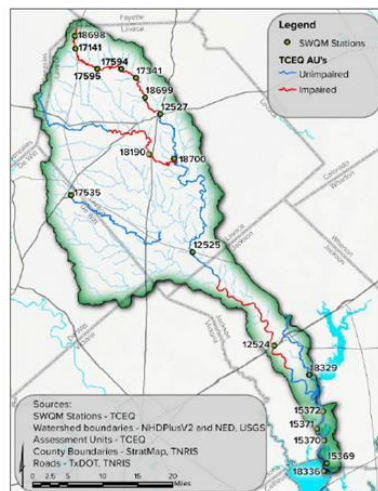




## Example Watershed Protection Plan

## Example Watershed Based Plan

- ◉ Lavaca River Watershed Protection Plan
- ◉ Problems: Excessive bacteria, low dissolved oxygen



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- Watersheds and Water Quality
- The Watershed Approach
- Watershed Protection Plan
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- Education and Outreach

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Natural processes and human activities can influence water quality and quantity within a watershed. For example, rain falling on the land area within a watershed might generate runoff that then flows across agricultural fields, lawns, roadways, industrial sites, grasslands or forests.

Point source pollution is categorized as being discharged from a defined point or location, such as a pipe or a drain, and can be traced back to a single point of origin. This type of pollution is typically discharged directly into a water body and subsequently contributes to the water body's flow. Point sources of pollution that are permitted to discharge their effluents within specific pollution limits must hold a permit through the Texas Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (TPDES).

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Lavaca River Watershed Protection Plan

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- Climate
- Demographics

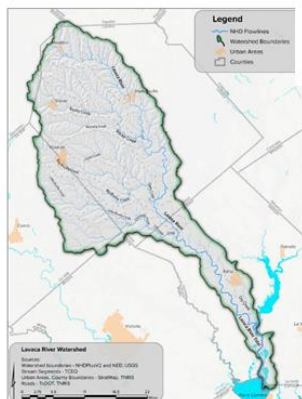


Figure 2. Water border of the Lavaca River watershed.

#### Land Use and Land Management

The Lavaca River watershed is largely rural, with a land-use dominated by agriculture, pasture and forests, with limited non-point pollution. Urban development has been limited to the river valley and the watershed. Based on 2013 National Land Cover Database (NLCD) data, approximately 50% of the land cover in the watershed is in agriculture, 30% is in pasture, 10% is in forest, and 10% is in other land uses. The average land use in the watershed is approximately 50% agriculture, 30% pasture, 10% forest, and 10% other land uses.

Due to its location along the Central Gulf Coast, the watershed climate is characterized by warm, humid weather, with moderate to high temperatures. The Texas Regional Climate is located adjacent to the watershed, region.

#### Climate

Due to its location along the Central Gulf Coast, the watershed climate is characterized by warm, humid weather, with moderate to high temperatures. The Texas Regional Climate is located adjacent to the watershed, region.

#### Figure 3. 10-year average watershed temperature and precipitation.

average peak daily high of 94.7°F according to August (Figure 3). Monthly average daily low and high temperatures in January are 47.5°F.

Precipitation peaks in May with an average of 5.13 inches (in) of rainfall. February has the lowest average rainfall with 3.08 in. The average annual precipitation is around 41 in for the watershed (PRISM 2012). Based on this low rainfall, much of the precipitation can be expected throughout the year, with slightly higher periods occurring in August and mid-winter.

#### Demographics

As of 2010, the Lavaca River watershed population was approximately 10,000, with a population density of 10 people per square mile (USCB 2010). Population is more dense within the watershed than the surrounding areas (Matagorda, Victoria and Edinburg (Figure 10). Population projections by the U.S. Census Bureau (USCB) and the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) for the year 2020 are provided in Table 1 (TWDB 2010). From 2010 to 2020, the population of Lavaca County is expected to remain stable, while Victoria and Edinburg are expected to increase by approximately 12% (population increase for Victoria, Edinburg and Victoria are not included due to the very small land area included within the watershed).



Figure 1. Land cover in the Lavaca River watershed.

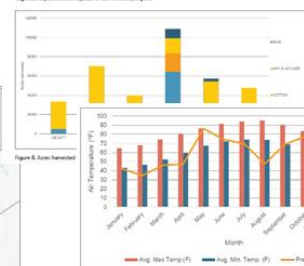


Figure 3. 10-year average watershed temperature and precipitation.

average peak daily high of 94.7°F according to August (Figure 3). Monthly average daily low and high temperatures in January are 47.5°F.

Precipitation peaks in May with an average of 5.13 inches (in) of rainfall. February has the lowest average rainfall with 3.08 in. The average annual precipitation is around 41 in for the watershed (PRISM 2012). Based on this low rainfall, much of the precipitation can be expected throughout the year, with slightly higher periods occurring in August and mid-winter.

#### Demographics

As of 2010, the Lavaca River watershed population was approximately 10,000, with a population density of 10 people per square mile (USCB 2010). Population is more dense within the watershed than the surrounding areas (Matagorda, Victoria and Edinburg (Figure 10). Population projections by the U.S. Census Bureau (USCB) and the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) for the year 2020 are provided in Table 1 (TWDB 2010). From 2010 to 2020, the population of Lavaca County is expected to remain stable, while Victoria and Edinburg are expected to increase by approximately 12% (population increase for Victoria, Edinburg and Victoria are not included due to the very small land area included within the watershed).

As of 2010, the Lavaca River watershed population was approximately 10,000, with a population density of 10 people per square mile (USCB 2010). Population is more dense within the watershed than the surrounding areas (Matagorda, Victoria and Edinburg (Figure 10). Population projections by the U.S. Census Bureau (USCB) and the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) for the year 2020 are provided in Table 1 (TWDB 2010). From 2010 to 2020, the population of Lavaca County is expected to remain stable, while Victoria and Edinburg are expected to increase by approximately 12% (population increase for Victoria, Edinburg and Victoria are not included due to the very small land area included within the watershed).

As of 2010, the Lavaca River watershed population was approximately 10,000, with a population density of 10 people per square mile (USCB 2010). Population is more dense within the watershed than the surrounding areas (Matagorda, Victoria and Edinburg (Figure 10). Population projections by the U.S. Census Bureau (USCB) and the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) for the year 2020 are provided in Table 1 (TWDB 2010). From 2010 to 2020, the population of Lavaca County is expected to remain stable, while Victoria and Edinburg are expected to increase by approximately 12% (population increase for Victoria, Edinburg and Victoria are not included due to the very small land area included within the watershed).

As of 2010, the Lavaca River watershed population was approximately 10,000, with a population density of 10 people per square mile (USCB 2010). Population is more dense within the watershed than the surrounding areas (Matagorda, Victoria and Edinburg (Figure 10). Population projections by the U.S. Census Bureau (USCB) and the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) for the year 2020 are provided in Table 1 (TWDB 2010). From 2010 to 2020, the population of Lavaca County is expected to remain stable, while Victoria and Edinburg are expected to increase by approximately 12% (population increase for Victoria, Edinburg and Victoria are not included due to the very small land area included within the watershed).

As of 2010, the Lavaca River watershed population was approximately 10,000, with a population density of 10 people per square mile (USCB 2010). Population is more dense within the watershed than the surrounding areas (Matagorda, Victoria and Edinburg (Figure 10). Population projections by the U.S. Census Bureau (USCB) and the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) for the year 2020 are provided in Table 1 (TWDB 2010). From 2010 to 2020, the population of Lavaca County is expected to remain stable, while Victoria and Edinburg are expected to increase by approximately 12% (population increase for Victoria, Edinburg and Victoria are not included due to the very small land area included within the watershed).

As of 2010, the Lavaca River watershed population was approximately 10,000, with a population density of 10 people per square mile (USCB 2010). Population is more dense within the watershed than the surrounding areas (Matagorda, Victoria and Edinburg (Figure 10). Population projections by the U.S. Census Bureau (USCB) and the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) for the year 2020 are provided in Table 1 (TWDB 2010). From 2010 to 2020, the population of Lavaca County is expected to remain stable, while Victoria and Edinburg are expected to increase by approximately 12% (population increase for Victoria, Edinburg and Victoria are not included due to the very small land area included within the watershed).

As of 2010, the Lavaca River watershed population was approximately 10,000, with a population density of 10 people per square mile (USCB 2010). Population is more dense within the watershed than the surrounding areas (Matagorda, Victoria and Edinburg (Figure 10). Population projections by the U.S. Census Bureau (USCB) and the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) for the year 2020 are provided in Table 1 (TWDB 2010). From 2010 to 2020, the population of Lavaca County is expected to remain stable, while Victoria and Edinburg are expected to increase by approximately 12% (population increase for Victoria, Edinburg and Victoria are not included due to the very small land area included within the watershed).

As of 2010, the Lavaca River watershed population was approximately 10,000, with a population density of 10 people per square mile (USCB 2010). Population is more dense within the watershed than the surrounding areas (Matagorda, Victoria and Edinburg (Figure 10). Population projections by the U.S. Census Bureau (USCB) and the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) for the year 2020 are provided in Table 1 (TWDB 2010). From 2010 to 2020, the population of Lavaca County is expected to remain stable, while Victoria and Edinburg are expected to increase by approximately 12% (population increase for Victoria, Edinburg and Victoria are not included due to the very small land area included within the watershed).

As of 2010, the Lavaca River watershed population was approximately 10,000, with a population density of 10 people per square mile (USCB 2010). Population is more dense within the watershed than the surrounding areas (Matagorda, Victoria and Edinburg (Figure 10). Population projections by the U.S. Census Bureau (USCB) and the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) for the year 2020 are provided in Table 1 (TWDB 2010). From 2010 to 2020, the population of Lavaca County is expected to remain stable, while Victoria and Edinburg are expected to increase by approximately 12% (population increase for Victoria, Edinburg and Victoria are not included due to the very small land area included within the watershed).

As of 2010, the Lavaca River watershed population was approximately 10,000, with a population density of 10 people per square mile (USCB 2010). Population is more dense within the watershed than the surrounding areas (Matagorda, Victoria and Edinburg (Figure 10). Population projections by the U.S. Census Bureau (USCB) and the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) for the year 2020 are provided in Table 1 (TWDB 2010). From 2010 to 2020, the population of Lavaca County is expected to remain stable, while Victoria and Edinburg are expected to increase by approximately 12% (population increase for Victoria, Edinburg and Victoria are not included due to the very small land area included within the watershed).

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As of 2010, the Lavaca River watershed population was approximately 10,000, with a population density of 10 people per square mile (USCB 2010). Population is more dense within the watershed than the surrounding areas (Matagorda, Victoria and Edinburg (Figure 10). Population projections by the U.S. Census Bureau (USCB) and the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) for the year 2020 are provided in Table 1 (TWDB 2010). From 2010 to 2020, the population of Lavaca County is expected to remain stable, while Victoria and Edinburg are expected to increase by approximately 12% (population increase for Victoria, Edinburg and Victoria are not included due to the very small land area included within the watershed).

As of 2010, the Lavaca River watershed population was approximately 10,000, with a population density of 10 people per square mile (USCB 2010). Population is more dense within the watershed than the surrounding areas (Matagorda, Victoria and Edinburg (Figure 10). Population projections by the U.S. Census Bureau (USCB) and the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) for the year 2020 are provided in Table 1 (TWDB 2010). From 2010 to 2020, the population of Lavaca County is expected to remain stable, while Victoria and Edinburg are expected to increase by approximately 12% (population increase for Victoria, Edinburg and Victoria are not included due to the very small land area included within the watershed).

As of 2010, the Lavaca River watershed population was approximately 10,000, with a population density of 10 people per square mile (USCB 2010). Population is more dense within the watershed than the surrounding areas (Matagorda, Victoria and Edinburg (Figure 10). Population projections by the U.S. Census Bureau (USCB) and the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) for the year 2020 are provided in Table 1 (TWDB 2010). From 2010 to 2020, the population of Lavaca County is expected to remain stable, while Victoria and Edinburg are expected to increase by approximately 12% (population increase for Victoria, Edinburg and Victoria are not included due to the very small land area included within the watershed).

As of 2010, the Lavaca River watershed population was approximately 10,000, with a population density of 10 people per square mile (USCB 2010). Population is more dense within the watershed than the surrounding areas (Matagorda, Victoria and Edinburg (Figure 10). Population projections by the U.S. Census Bureau (USCB) and the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) for the year 2020 are provided in Table 1 (TWDB 2010). From 2010 to 2020, the population of Lavaca County is expected to remain stable, while Victoria and Edinburg are expected to increase by approximately 12% (population increase for Victoria, Edinburg and Victoria are not included due to the very small land area included within the watershed).

As of 2010, the Lavaca River watershed population was approximately 10,000, with a population density of 10 people per square mile (USCB 2010). Population is more dense within the watershed than the surrounding areas (Matagorda, Victoria and Edinburg (Figure 10). Population projections by the U.S. Census Bureau (USCB) and the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) for the year 2020 are provided in Table 1 (TWDB 2010). From 2010 to 2020, the population of Lavaca County is expected to remain stable, while Victoria and Edinburg are expected to increase by approximately 12% (population increase for Victoria, Edinburg and Victoria are not included due to the very small land area included within the watershed).

As of 2010, the Lavaca River watershed population was approximately 10,000, with a population density of 10 people per square mile (USCB 2010). Population is more dense within the watershed than the surrounding areas (Matagorda, Victoria and Edinburg (Figure 10). Population projections by the U.S. Census Bureau (USCB) and the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) for the year 2020 are provided in Table 1 (TWDB 2010). From 2010 to 2020, the population of Lavaca County is expected to remain stable, while Victoria and Edinburg are expected to increase by approximately 12% (population increase for Victoria, Edinburg and Victoria are not included due to the very small land area included within the watershed).

As of 2010, the Lavaca River watershed population was approximately 10,000, with a population density of 10 people per square mile (USCB 2010). Population is more dense within the watershed than the surrounding areas (Matagorda, Victoria and Edinburg (Figure 10). Population projections by the U.S. Census Bureau (USCB) and the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) for the year 2020 are provided in Table 1 (TWDB 2010). From 2010 to 2020, the population of Lavaca County is expected to remain stable, while Victoria and Edinburg are expected to increase by approximately 12% (population increase for Victoria, Edinburg and Victoria are not included due to the very small land area included within the watershed).

## Chapter 3 – Water Quality

- Introduction
- Bacteria
- RUAA
- Dissolved Oxygen
- UAA
- Nutrients
- Flow
- Potential Sources of Water Quality Issues
- Water Quality Summary

Table 4. 2014 Texas Integrated Report Assessment Results for stream segments in the Lavaca River watershed currently monitored for bacteria (TCEQ 2016).

AU	Description	Current Standard	Geometric	Supporting/Not Supporting
1602_02	Lavaca River Above Tidal – From the confluence of Bear Branch upstream to the upper end of segment at the confluence of Campbell Branch in Hallettsville	126 cfu/100 mL E. coli	114.65	Fully Supporting
1602_03	Lavaca River Above Tidal – Lower portion of segment from confluence with NHD No. 12100101000463 south of Edna upstream to confluence with Bear Branch	126 cfu/100 mL E. coli	294.94	Not Supporting
1602_01	Rocky Creek – From confluence of Lavaca River upstream to confluence of Panton Creek	126 cfu/100 mL E. coli	222.16	Not Supporting

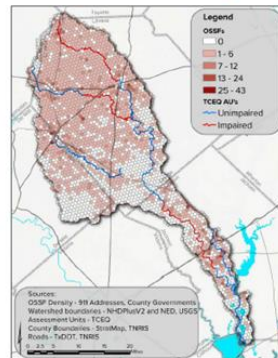
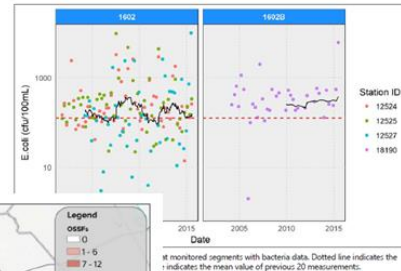


Figure 19. OSSF density.

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## Chapter 4 – Pollutant Source Assessment

- Introduction
- Load Duration Curves
- Pollutant Source Load Estimates
- Load Reduction Summary

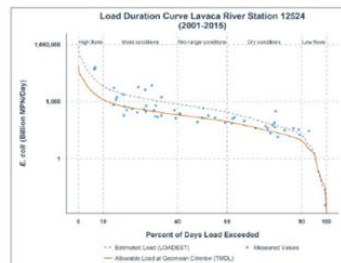


Figure 21. Load duration curve for Lavaca River SWQM Station 12524.

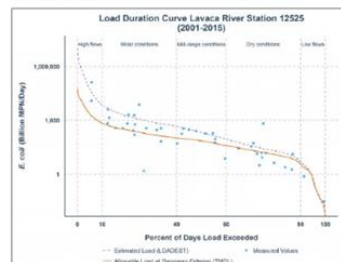


Figure 22. Load duration curve for Lavaca River SWQM Station 12525.

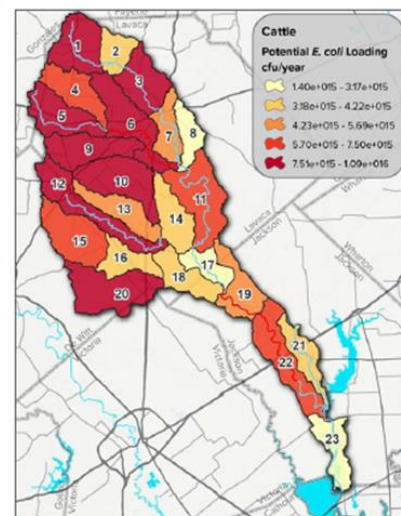


Figure 25. Potential annual bacteria loadings from cattle.

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## Chapter 5 – Watershed Protection Plan Implementation Strategies

- Introduction
- Management Measures

Table 13. Available pasture and rangeland practices to improve water quality.

Practice	NRCS Code	Focus Area or Benefit
Brush management	314	Livestock, water quality, water quantity, wildlife
Fencing	382	Livestock, water quality
Filter strips	393	Livestock, water quality, wildlife
Grade stabilization structures	410	Water quality
Grazing land mechanical treatment	548	Livestock, water quality, wildlife
Heavy use area protection	562	Livestock, water quantity, water quality
Pond	378	Livestock, water quantity, water quality, wildlife
Prescribed burning	338	Livestock, water quality, wildlife
Prescribed grazing	528	Livestock, water quality, wildlife
Range/Pasture planting	550/512	Livestock, water quality, wildlife
Shade structure	N/A	Livestock, water quality, wildlife
Stream crossing	578	Livestock, water quality
Supplemental feed location	N/A	Livestock, water quality
Water well	642	Livestock, water quantity, wildlife
Watering facility	614	Livestock, water quantity

Table 14. Management measure 1: Promote and implement Water Quality Management Plans or conservation plans.

Source: Cattle and Other Livestock			
<b>Problem:</b> Direct and indirect fecal bacteria loading due to livestock in streams, riparian degradation and overgrazing			
<b>Objectives:</b>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work with producers to develop conservation plans and WQMPs that improve grazing practices and water quality.</li> <li>• Provide technical and financial support to producers.</li> <li>• Reduce fecal loadings attributed to livestock.</li> </ul>			
<b>Critical Areas:</b> All properties with riparian habitat throughout the watershed and all properties in subwatersheds 1, 3, 5, 6, 9, 10, 12 and 20			
<b>Goal:</b> Develop and implement conservation plans and WQMPs that minimize time spent by livestock in riparian areas and better use available grazing resource across the property.			
<b>Description:</b> Conservation plans and WQMPs will be developed with producers to implement BMPs that reduce water quality impacts from overgrazing, time spent by livestock in and near streams, and runoff from grazed lands. Practices will be identified and developed in consultation with NRCS, TSSWCB and local SWCDs as appropriate. Education programs and workshops will support and promote the adoption of these practices.			
Implementation Strategy			
Participation	Recommendations	Period	Capital Costs
TSSWCB, SWCDs	Develop funding to hire WQMP technician.	2019-2029	Estimated \$75,000/yr
Producers, NRCS, TSSWCB, SWCDs	Develop, implement and provide financial assistance for 100 livestock conservation plans and WQMPs (including 30 in Rocky Creek subwatersheds).	2019-2029	\$1,500,000 (est. \$15,000/plan)
AgriLife Extension, TAMU	Deliver education and outreach programs and workshops (Lone Star Healthy Streams) to landowners.	2019, 2023, 2027	N/A
Estimated Load Reduction			
Prescribed management will reduce loadings associated with livestock by reducing runoff from pastures and rangeland as well as reducing direct deposition by livestock. Implementation of 100 WQMPs and conservation plans is estimated to reduce annual loads from livestock by $1.00 \times 10^{11}$ cfu E. coli/yr in the Lavaca River. Of these 100 plans, at least 30 should be targeted toward the Rocky Creek watershed, which is estimated to reduce loads by $2.25 \times 10^{11}$ cfu E. coli/yr.*			
<b>Effectiveness</b>	High – Decreasing the amount of time livestock spend in riparian areas and reducing runoff from pastures will directly reduce NPS contributions of bacteria in creeks.		
<b>Certainty</b>	Moderate – Landowners acknowledge the importance of good land stewardship practices and management plan objectives; however, financial incentives are often needed to promote the WQMP and conservation plan implementation.		
<b>Commitment</b>	Moderate – Landowners are willing to implement stewardship practices shown to improve productivity; however, because costs are often prohibitive, financial incentives are needed to increase implementation rates.		
<b>Needs</b>	High – Financial costs are a major barrier to implementation, education and outreach are also needed to demonstrate benefits to producers and their operations.		
<b>Potential Funding Sources</b>	Coastal Zone Management Program/Coastal Management Program (CZM program and CMP); EPA CWA §319(h) grant program; NRCS Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP); Conservation Innovation Grants (CIG); Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP); Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP).		

\*Load reduction calculations described in Appendix B

Funding sources described in Section 7.4

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## Chapter 6 – Education and Outreach

- Watershed Coordinator
- Public Meetings
- Future Stakeholder Engagement
- Education Programs (Extension programs)
- Public Meetings
- Newsletters and News Releases

Table 22. Watershed stakeholders that will need to be engaged throughout the implementation of the WPP.

Lavaca River WPP Stakeholders
Local residents, landowners, businesses
Local governments – Edna, Hallettsville, Moulton, Shiner, Yoakum, Jackson County, Lavaca County
State Agencies – TCEQ, TSSWCB, TPWD, AgriLife Extension
Federal Agencies – USDA NRCS
Regional Entities – LNRA staff and board members, SWCD boards

### Future Stakeholder Engagement

Watershed stakeholders (Table 22) will be continually engaged throughout the entire process and following the transition of efforts from development to implementation of the WPP. The Watershed Coordinator will play a critical role in this transition by continuing to organize and host periodic public meetings and needed educational events in addition to seeking out and meeting with focused groups of stakeholders to find and secure implementation funds. The coordinator will also provide content to maintain and update the project website, track WPP implementation progress and participate in local events to promote watershed awareness and stewardship. News articles, newsletters and the project website will be primary tools used to communicate with watershed stakeholders on a regular basis and will be developed to update readers periodically on implementation progress, provide information on new implementation opportunities, inform them on available technical or financial assistance, and other items of interest related to the WPP effort.

### Education Programs

Educational programming will be a critical part of the WPP implementation process. Multiple programs geared toward providing information on various sources of potential pollutants and feasible management strategies will be delivered in and near the Lavaca River watershed and advertised to watershed stakeholders. An approximate schedule for planned programming is provided in Chapter 8. This schedule will be used as a starting point, and efforts will be made to abide by this schedule as much as possible. As implementation and data collection continues, the adaptive management process will be used to modify this schedule and respective educational needs as appropriate.

### Feral Hog Management Workshop

The Watershed Coordinator will coordinate with AgriLife Extension personnel to deliver periodic workshops focusing on feral hog management. This workshop will educate landowners on the negative impacts of feral hogs, effective control methods and resources to help them control these pests. Workshop frequency will be approximately every 3–5 years, unless there are significant changes in available means and methods to control feral hogs.

### Lone Star Healthy Streams Workshop

The Watershed Coordinator will coordinate with AgriLife Extension personnel to deliver the Lone Star Healthy Streams curriculum. This program is geared toward expanding stakeholders' knowledge on how beef cattle producers can improve grazing lands to reduce NPS pollution. This statewide program promotes the adoption of BMPs that have been proven to effectively reduce bacterial contamination of streams. This program provides educational support for the development of conservation plans by illustrating the benefits of many practices available for inclusion in a conservation plan to program participants. This program will likely be delivered in the watershed once every 5 years or as needed.

### OSSF Operation and Maintenance Workshop

Once OSSFs in the watershed and their owners have been identified, an OSSF rules, regulations, operation and maintenance training will be delivered in the watershed. This training will consist of education and outreach practices to promote the proper management of existing OSSFs and to garner support for efforts to further identify and address failing OSSFs through inspections and remedial actions. AgriLife Extension provides the needed expertise to deliver this training. Based on needs identified early during WPP planning, trainings will be scheduled for every third year. Additionally, an online training module that provides an overview of septic systems, how they operate and what maintenance is required to sustain proper functionality and extend system life will be made available to anyone interested through the partnership website. This training module was developed by the Guadalupe-Blanco River Authority in cooperation with AgriLife Extension and is currently available online at: [www.gbra.org/septic.cvf](http://www.gbra.org/septic.cvf).



## Chapter 7 – Resources to Implement the WPP

- Introduction
- Technical Assistance
- Financial Sources

Table 23. Summary of potential sources of technical assistance.

Technical Assistance	Potential Sources
<b>Management Measure</b>	
MM1: Promote and implement WQMPs or conservation plans	TSSWCB; local SWCDs; NRCS; AgriLife Extension
MM2: Promote technical and direct operational assistance to landowners for feral hog control	AgriLife Extension; TPWD; NRCS; TSSWCB
MM3: Identify and repair or replace failing on-site sewage systems	Lavaca County designated representative, Jackson County Office of Permitting; AgriLife Extension
MM4: Increase proper pet waste management	City public works departments; AgriLife Extension
MM5: Implement and expand urban and impervious surface stormwater runoff management	City public works departments; engineering firms; AgriLife Extension
MM6: Address inflow and infiltration	City public works departments; engineering firms; TCEQ
MM7: Reduce illicit dumping	AgriLife Extension; county law enforcement; TPWD game wardens

## Chapter 8 – Measuring Success

- Introduction
- Water Quality Targets
- Additional Data Collection Needs
- Data Review
- Interim Measurable Milestones
- Adaptive Management

Table 25. Lavaca River watershed management measures, responsible party, goals and estimated costs.

Management Measure	Responsible Party	Unit Cost	Implementation Goals (years after implementation begins) <sup>1</sup>										Total Cost
			1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	
<b>Livestock</b>													
Hire WQMP field technician.	TSSWCB, SWCDs	\$75,000/yr				1							
Develop 100 WQMPs/conservation plans.	TSSWCB, SWCDs, NRCS	\$15,000	20		40		60		80		100		\$1,500,000
<b>Feral Hogs</b>													
Install feral hog enclosures.	Landowners	\$200				As many as possible						N/A	
Feral hog removal	Landowners	N/A				15% reduction or > 2,439 hogs/yr						N/A	
Develop and implement Wildlife Management Plans and Practices.	Landowners, TPWD, TSSWCB, NRCS	N/A				As many as possible						N/A	
<b>OSSFs</b>													
Develop OSSF repair/replacement programs.	Watershed Coordinator, counties, AgriLife Extension	N/A				1							N/A
Repair/replace faulty OSSFs.	Homeowner	\$8,000			10	20	30	40					\$320,000
<b>Pet Waste</b>													
Install and maintain pet waste stations.	Cities	\$500 for stations plus \$100/yr/station		2		3	4		5				\$4,400
Develop educational and outreach materials.	Cities, AgriLife Extension, Watershed Coordinator	N/A				Develop and deliver annually						N/A	
<b>Urban Stormwater</b>													
Identify and install potential stormwater BMP projects.	Cities	\$4,000 to \$45,000/acre treated				As many as possible						N/A	
<b>SSOs and Unauthorized Discharges</b>													
Develop program to repair private connections contributing to I&I.	Cities, AgriLife Extension, property owners	N/A				1							N/A
Smoke testing and repair of faulty pipes and connections	Cities, contractors	\$2,000-\$2,500/mile; \$3,000-\$20,000/repair				As funding allows						N/A	
Develop and deliver educational materials.	Cities, AgriLife Extension, TWRI	N/A				Develop and deliver annually						N/A	

Appendix A – Potential  
Load Reductions

Appendix B – Load  
Reduction Calculations

Appendix C – Elements  
of Successful Watershed  
Protection Plans (9  
elements)



## Contact Us

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Project Webpage: <https://twri.tamu.edu/our-work/restoring-protecting/middle-yegua-creek-davidson-creek-deer-creek-water-quality/>



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## Appendix K: Brazos Basin Steering Committee Clean Rivers Program Meeting Presentation – April 11, 2019

# Characterization of Middle Yegua, Davidson, and Deer Creeks

Stephanie deVilleneuve  
Texas Water Resources Institute  
April 11, 2019



1

## Middle Yegua, Davidson, and Deer Creek Impairments

- ◉ Deer Creek was listed as impaired on the 2006 Texas 303(d) List for not meeting the primary contact recreation bacteria standard while Middle Yegua and Davidson Creek were listed on the 2010 Texas 303(d) List.
- ◉ Davidson Creek was listed as impaired for depressed dissolved oxygen in 2010.
- ◉ Screening level concerns for habitat in Middle Yegua Creek and use concerns for the macrobenthic community in Deer Creek.
- ◉ Screening level concerns for low dissolved oxygen in Middle Yegua and Davidson Creeks.



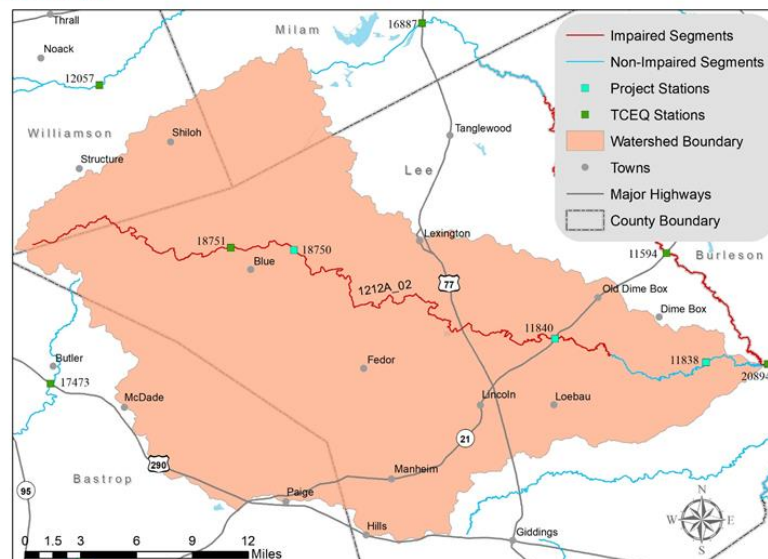
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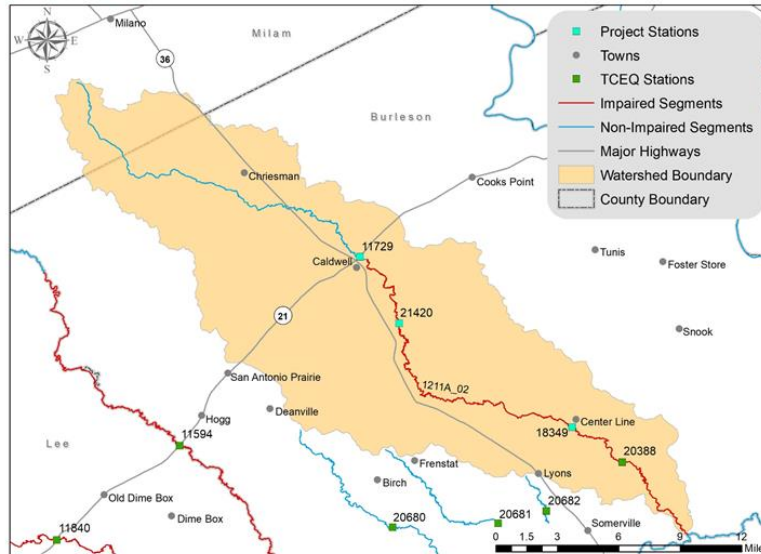
## Significance of Impairments

- ◉ *E. coli* data collected indicate that levels in these watersheds are higher than state standards
- ◉ Actions must be taken to improve water quality to meet state standards or regulatory measures are likely

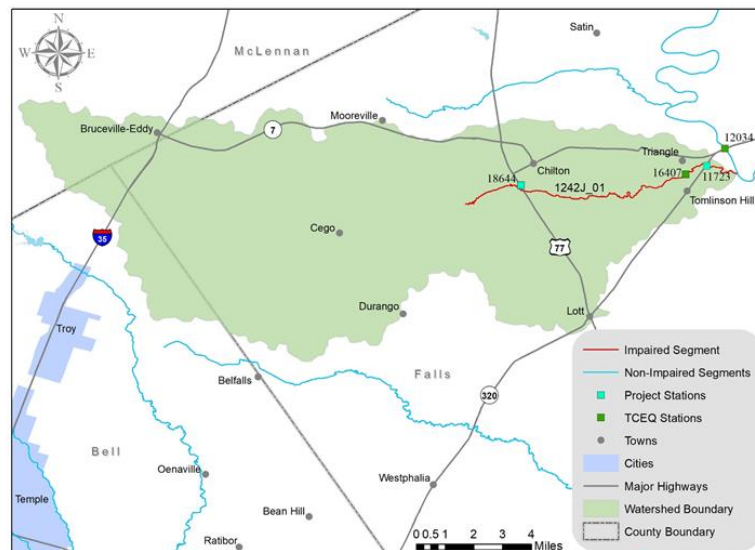
## Middle Yegua Creek Watershed



# Davidson Creek Watershed



# Deer Creek Watershed





## Public Outreach, Education, and Involvement

- ◉ Host one education event annually per watershed.
  - Davidson Creek: TWON in September 2018
  - Middle Yegua Creek: Feral Hog Workshop May 2019
  - Deer Creek: TWON in February 2019
- ◉ Direct mailings to key stakeholders
  - Attend SWCD meetings
- ◉ Host a project webpage



## Additional Actions

- ◉ Load Duration Curves (LDCs)
- ◉ Utilization of Geographic Information System (GIS)
  - Identify and spatially depict potential causes and sources of pollutant contributors
- ◉ Estimate potential pollutant loadings
- ◉ Potential for WPP or TMDL if stakeholder opinion is favorable





# Thanks for your time!

## Questions?

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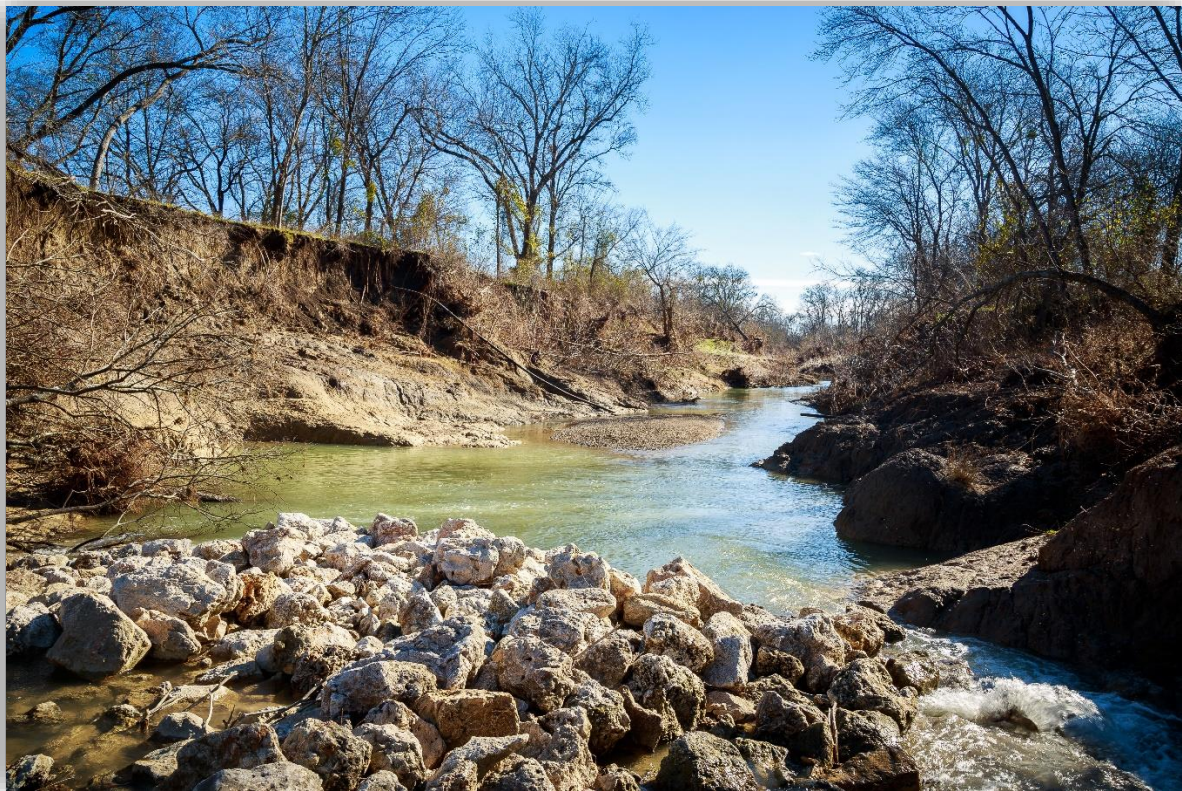
## **Appendix L: Middle Yegua, Davidson and Deer Creeks Watersheds Characterization Report**

# Characterization of Middle Yegua, Davidson and Deer Creeks Watersheds

Prepared by: Stephanie deVilleneuve<sup>1</sup>, Luna Yang<sup>2</sup>, Jacqueline Rambo<sup>2</sup>, Michael Schramm<sup>3</sup>, Allen Berthold<sup>4</sup>

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Funding provided by the Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board through State Nonpoint Source Grant Program.



Cover photo by: Edward Rhodes, Texas Water Resources Institute<sup>1</sup>

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## List of Acronyms

ALU	Aquatic-Life Use
AU	Assessment Unit
AVMA	American Veterinary Medical Association
BRA	Brazos River Authority
cfu	Colony Forming Units
CRP	Clean Rivers Program
CWA	Clean Water Act
DAR	Drainage-Area Ratio Method
DO	Dissolved Oxygen
<i>E. coli</i>	<i>Escherichia coli</i>
ECHO	Enforcement and Compliance History Online
FDC	Flow Duration Curve
GIS	Geographic Information System
HSG	Hydrologic Soil Groups
I&I	Inflow and Infiltration
LDC	Load Duration Curve
LULC	Land Use Land Cover
MGD	Million Gallons per Day
mL	Milliliter
MPN	Most Probable Number
MRLC	Multi-resolution Land Characteristics Consortium
MS4	Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems
NASS	National Agricultural Statistics Service
NED	National Elevation Database
NLCD	National Land Cover Database
NOAA	National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration
NPDES	National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System
NPS	Non-point Source
NRCS	Natural Resources Conservation Service
OSSF	On-site Sewage Facilities
RMU	Resource Management Unit
SELECT	Spatially Explicit Load Enrichment Calculation
SSO	Sanitary Sewer Overflow
SSURGO	Soil Survey Geographic Database
SWQM	Surface Water Quality Monitoring
TCEQ	Texas Commission on Environmental Quality
TPDES	Texas Pollutant Discharge Elimination System
TPWD	Texas Parks and Wildlife Department
TWDB	Texas Water Development Board
TWRI	Texas Water Resources Institute
USDA	United States Department of Agriculture
USGS	United State Geological Survey
WWTF	Wastewater Treatment Facility



## Executive Summary

Middle Yegua Creek, Davidson Creek, and Deer Creek have all been identified to be impaired for elevated concentrations of *Escherichia coli* (*E. coli*) in the *2018 Texas Integrated Report of Surface Water Quality for the Clean Water Act Sections 305(b) and 303(d)* (Texas Integrated Report) (TCEQ, 2019b). Davidson Creek was also listed in the *2018 Texas Integrated Report* as impaired for depressed dissolved oxygen (TCEQ, 2019b). Elevated levels of *E. coli* have been identified in the Middle Yegua Creek watershed since as early as 2010 (TCEQ, 2011). For the Davidson Creek watershed elevated bacteria levels were first identified in 2002 (TCEQ, 2002) and depressed dissolved oxygen in 2010 (TCEQ, 2011). For the Deer Creek watershed the bacteria impairment was first identified in 2006 (TCEQ, 2008). This characterization addresses the *E. coli* impairments in the Middle Yegua Creek, Davidson Creek, and Deer Creek watersheds with supplementary water quality monitoring and a review of the current demographic, climatic, physical, and hydrological conditions of the watersheds.

Activities for the project have included water quality monitoring, trainings and meeting with Soil and Water Conservation Districts in each watershed to discuss the goals and objectives of addressing the bacteria impairments. Educational programs were delivered to stakeholders to inform them of watershed management and to increase their understanding of what factors contribute to bacteria impairments. Existing data for water quality parameters, flow, livestock, wildlife, stormwater permits and number of on-site sewage facilities have been analyzed to develop a better understanding of potential causes and sources of bacteria pollution.

## Background Information

### Description of the Watersheds and Waterbodies

Middle Yegua Creek, Davidson Creek, and Deer Creek are all located in the southern portion of the Brazos River Basin in separate watersheds (Figure 1). Each of the watersheds will be evaluated separately throughout the report to reflect the individual characteristics and water quality issues of the waterbodies.

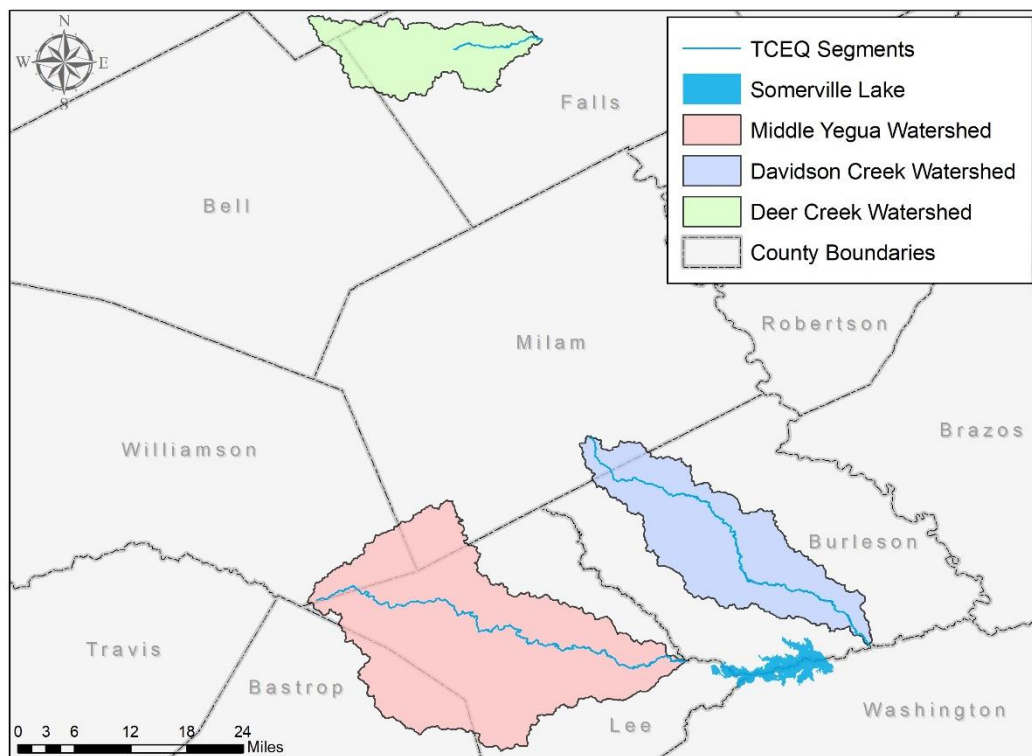


Figure 2. Overview of Characterization Report watersheds

## Middle Yegua, Davidson, and Deer Creeks Characterization Report

Middle Yegua Creek (Segment ID 1212A) begins at the confluence with East Yegua and Yegua Creeks in Lee County and flows approximately 62 miles to the Lee County/Williamson County line (**Error! Reference source not found.**). Middle Yegua Creek drains an area of approximately 440 square miles in Lee (73 percent), Bastrop (13 percent), Williamson (8 percent), and Milam (6 percent) counties. The segment is also divided into two assessment units (AU), 1212A\_01 and 1212A\_02.

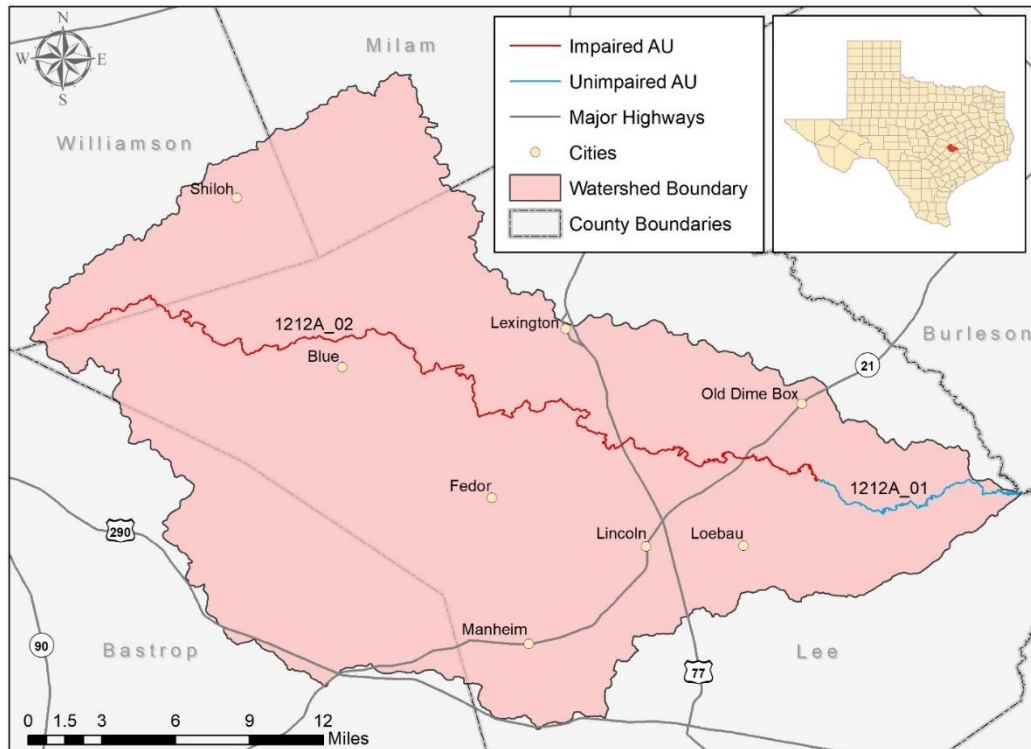


Figure 3. Middle Yegua Creek watershed

## Middle Yegua, Davidson, and Deer Creeks Characterization Report

Davidson Creek (Segment ID 1211A) is an intermittent stream with perennial pools that flows approximately 59 miles from the confluence of Yegua Creek to just over 1 mile above CR 322 in Milam County (**Error! Reference source not found.**). Davidson Creek drains an area of approximately 218 square miles in Burleson (93 percent) and Milam (7 percent) counties. The segment is also divided into two AUs, 1211A\_01 and 1211A\_02.

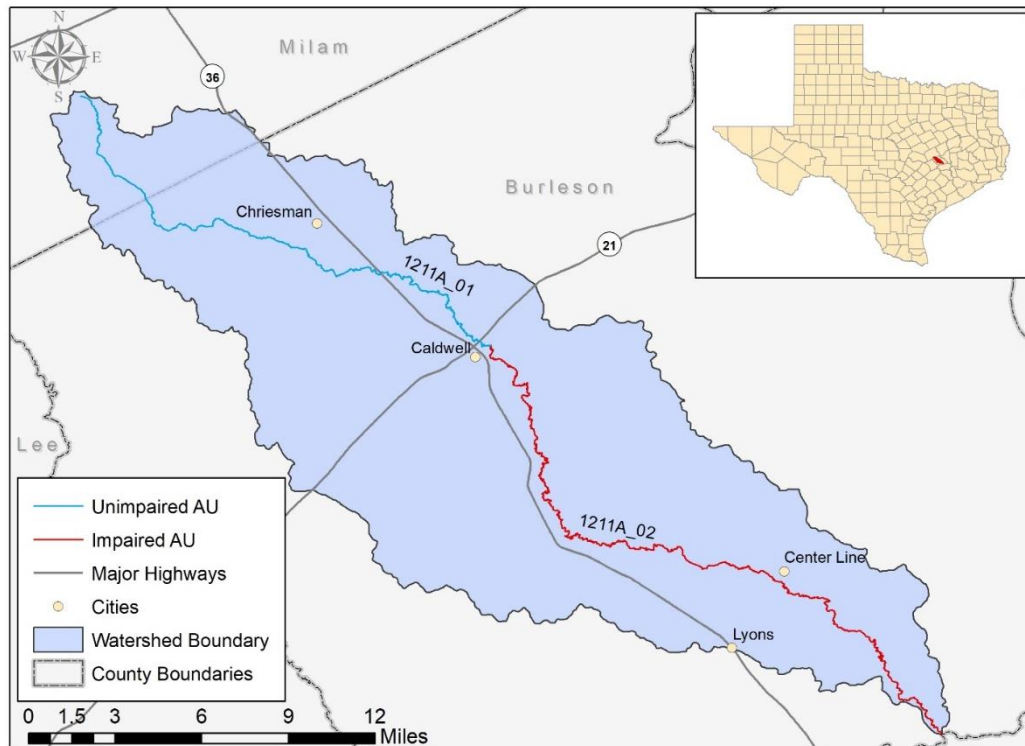


Figure 4. Davidson Creek watershed



## Middle Yegua, Davidson, and Deer Creeks Characterization Report

Deer Creek (Segment ID 1242J) is a perennial stream that begins at the confluence of the Brazos River upstream and flows approximately 11 miles to the confluence of Dog Branch northwest of Lott (**Error! Reference source not found.**). Deer Creek drains an area of approximately 115 square miles in Falls (87 percent), McLennan (7 percent), and Bell (6 percent) counties. The segment consists of a single AU, 1242J\_01.

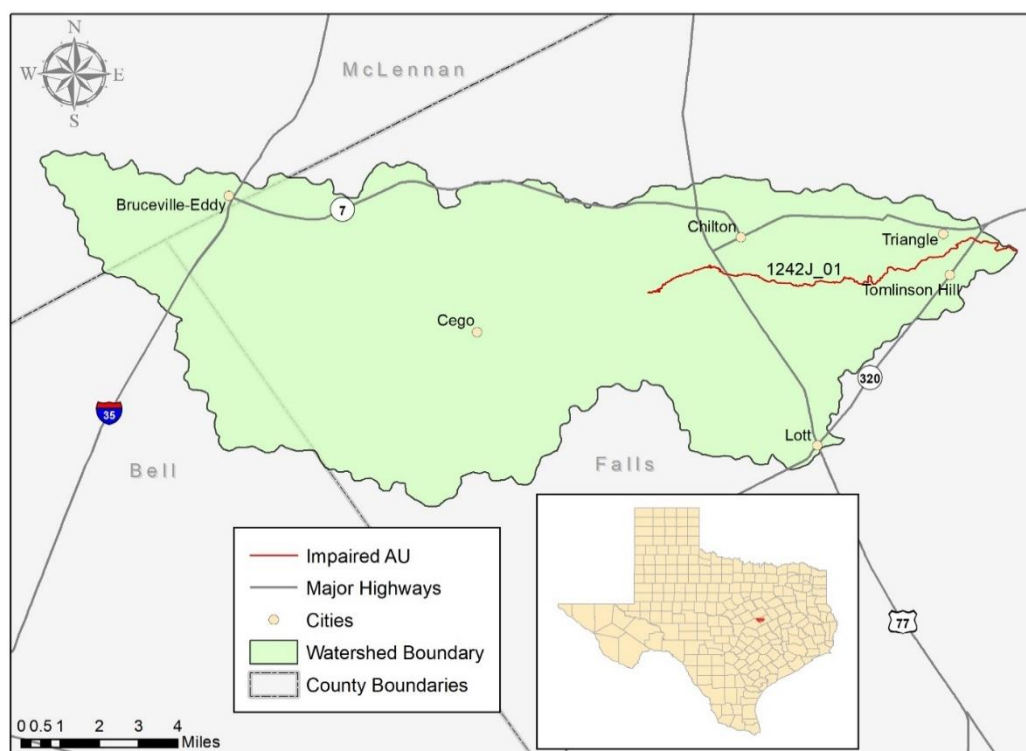


Figure 5. Deer Creek watershed

### Soils and Topography

The soils and topography of a watershed are important components of watershed hydrology. Slope and elevation define where water will flow, while elevation and soil properties influence how much and how fast water will infiltrate into, flow over or move through the soil into a water body. Soil properties may also limit the types of development and activities that can occur in certain areas.

All three watersheds are predominantly flat and have moderate drainage. The Middle Yegua Creek watershed has a peak elevation of about 232 ft with the lowest elevation point being approximately 75.5 ft (USGS, 2013) (Figure 5). The Davidson Creek watershed has a peak elevation of about 194 ft with the lowest elevation point being approximately 59 ft (USGS, 2013) (**Error! Reference source not found.**). The Deer Creek watershed has a peak elevation of about 266 ft with the lowest elevation point being approximately 97 ft (USGS, 2013) (**Error! Reference source not found.**). There is an average of one-degree slope across all the watersheds, with more intense slopes restricted to areas such as cut banks near the creek systems.

## Middle Yegua, Davidson, and Deer Creeks Characterization Report

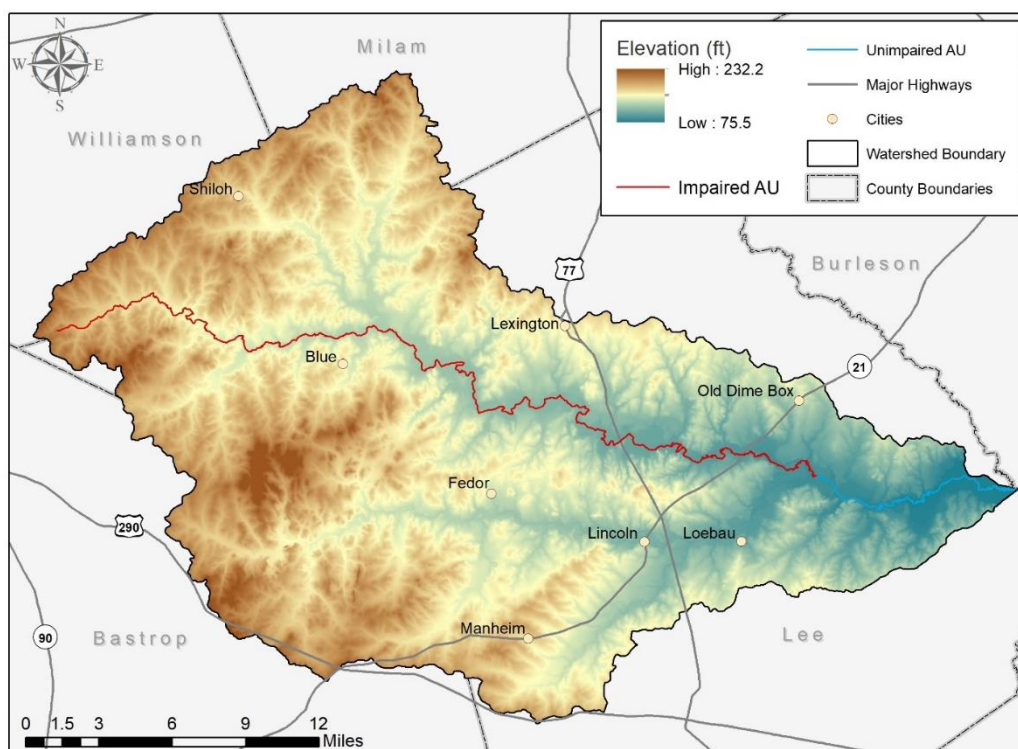


Figure 6. Elevation of the Middle Yegua Creek watershed

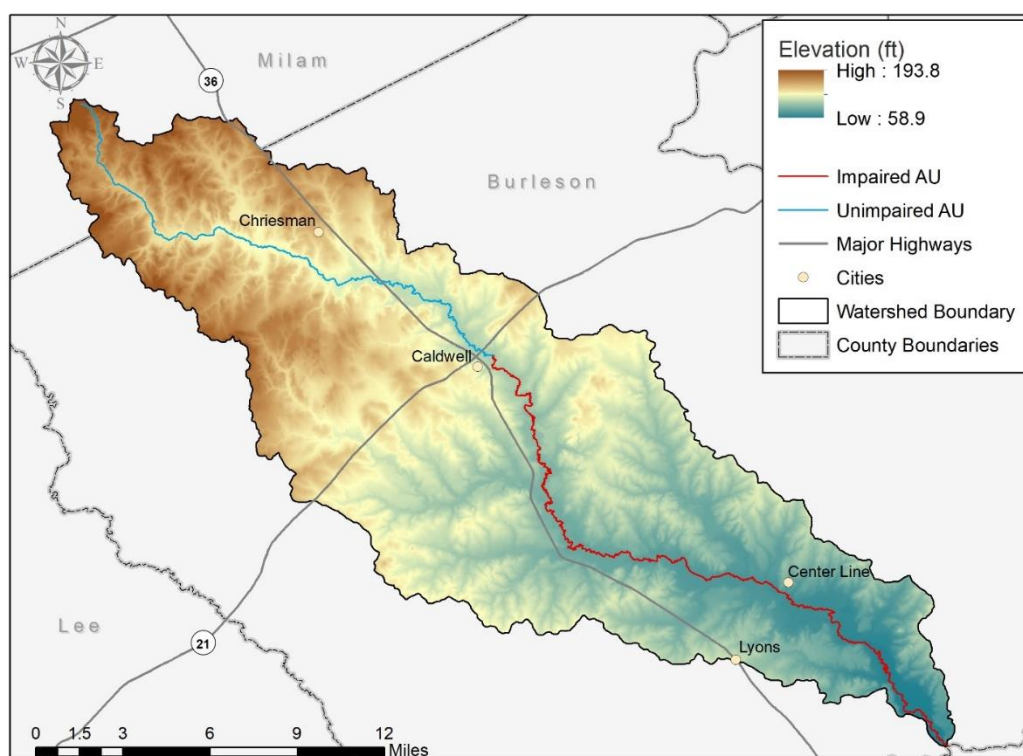


Figure 7. Elevation of the Davidson Creek watershed

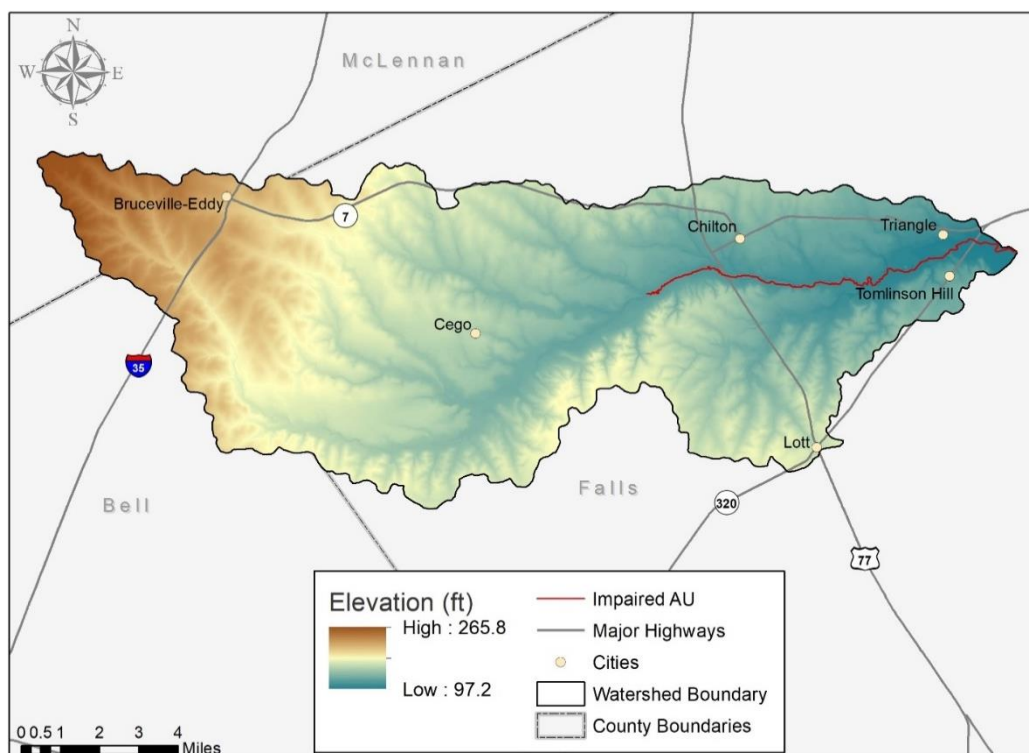


Figure 8. Elevation of the Deer Creek watershed

Soil data was obtained from the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Soil Survey Geographic (SSURGO) database (NRCS, 2019). The USDA NRCS SSURGO data assigns different soils to one of seven possible runoff potential classifications or hydrologic soil groups (HSGs). These classifications are based on the estimated rate of water infiltration when soils are not protected by vegetation, are thoroughly wet, and receive precipitation from long-duration storms. The four main groups are A, B, C, and D, with three dual classes (A/D, B/D, C/D). The null classification identifies areas where data is incomplete or not available. The USDA NRCS SSURGO database defines the other four classifications below:

Group A – Soils having high infiltration rate (low runoff potential) when thoroughly wet. These consist mainly of deep, well-drained to excessively drained sands or gravelly sands. These soils have a high rate of water transmission.

Group B – Soils having a moderate infiltration rate when thoroughly wet. These consist of moderately deep or deep, moderately well-drained or well-drained soils that have moderately fine texture to moderately coarse texture. These soils have a moderate rate of water transmission.

Group C – Soils having a slow infiltration rate when thoroughly wet. These consist chiefly of soils having a layer that impedes the downward movement of water or soils of moderately fine texture or fine texture. These soils have a slow rate of water transmission.

## Middle Yegua, Davidson, and Deer Creeks Characterization Report

Group D – Soils having a very slow infiltration rate (high runoff potential) when thoroughly wet. These consist chiefly of clays that have a high shrink-swell potential, soils that have a high water table, soils that have a claypan or clay layer at or near the surface, and soils that are shallow over nearly impervious material. These soils have a very slow rate of water transmission.

Soils with dual hydrologic groupings indicate that drained areas are assigned the first letter, and the second letter is assigned to undrained areas. Only soils that are in group D in their natural condition are assigned to dual classes.

The majority of soils in the Middle Yegua Creek watershed have an HSG of B (37 percent of the watershed) or D (26 percent) (**Error! Reference source not found.**). The remaining six groups are the least dominant HSGs in the watershed (**Error! Reference source not found.**) (NRCS, 2019).

The majority of soils in the Davidson Creek watershed have an HSG of B (45 percent of the watershed) or C (21 percent) (**Error! Reference source not found.**). The remaining six groups are the least dominant HSGs in the watershed (**Error! Reference source not found.**) (NRCS, 2019).

The majority of soils in the Deer Creek watershed have an HSG of B (43 percent of the watershed) or D (24 percent) (**Error! Reference source not found.**). The remaining six groups are the least dominant HSGs in the watershed (**Error! Reference source not found.**) (NRCS, 2019).

## Middle Yegua, Davidson, and Deer Creeks Characterization Report

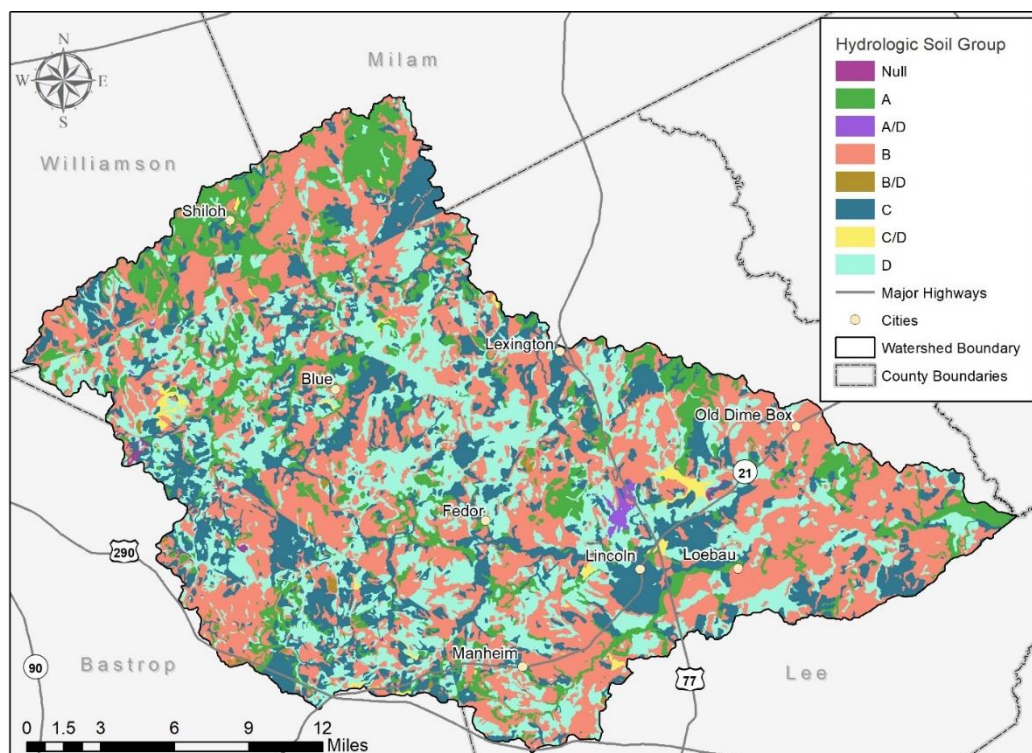


Figure 9. Middle Yegua Creek watershed Hydrologic Soil Groups

Table 1. Descriptions of the Hydrologic Soil Groups in the Middle Yegua Creek watershed

Hydrologic Soil Group	Acres	Percent of Total
Null	410	0.1%
A	39,848	14.1%
A/D	781	0.3%
B	104,445	37.1%
B/D	738	0.3%
C	59,172	21.0%
C/D	2,103	0.8%
D	74,300	26.4%
Total	281,798	100%



## Middle Yegua, Davidson, and Deer Creeks Characterization Report

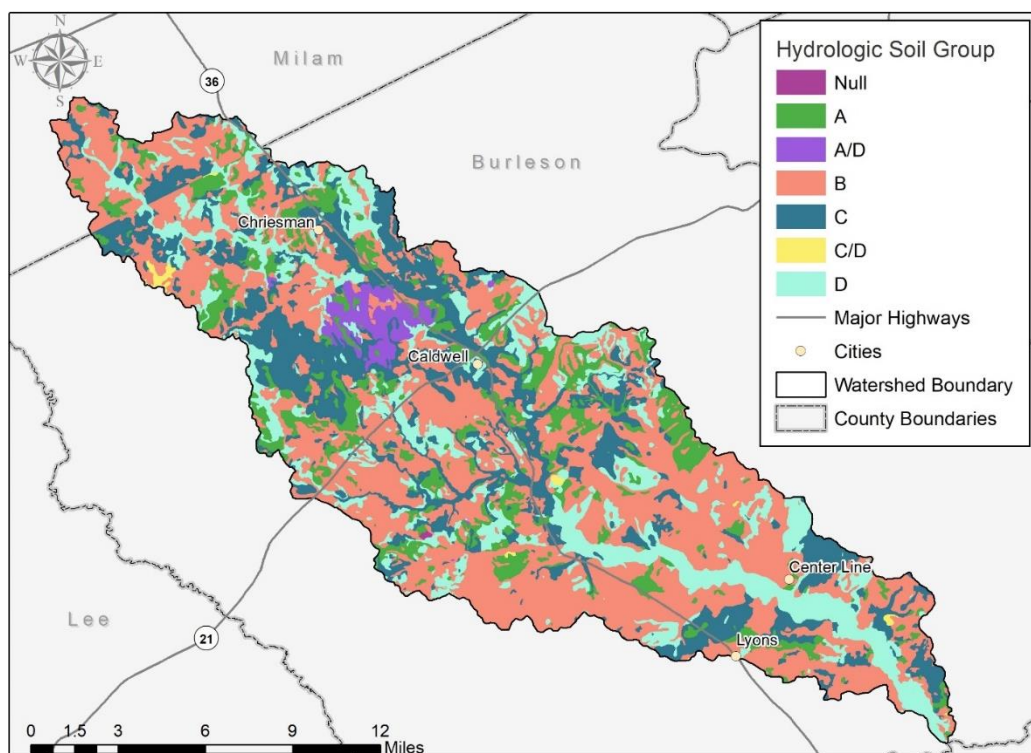


Figure 10. Davidson Creek watershed Hydrologic Soil Groups

Table 2. Descriptions of the Hydrologic Soil Groups in the Davidson Creek watershed

Hydrologic Soil Group	Acres	Percent of Total
Null	45	0.03%
A	17,184	12.33%
A/D	2,849	2.04%
B	63,110	45.28%
B/D	0	0.00%
C	29,848	21.42%
C/D	441	0.32%
D	25,890	18.58%
Total	139,367	100%

# Middle Yegua, Davidson, and Deer Creeks Characterization Report

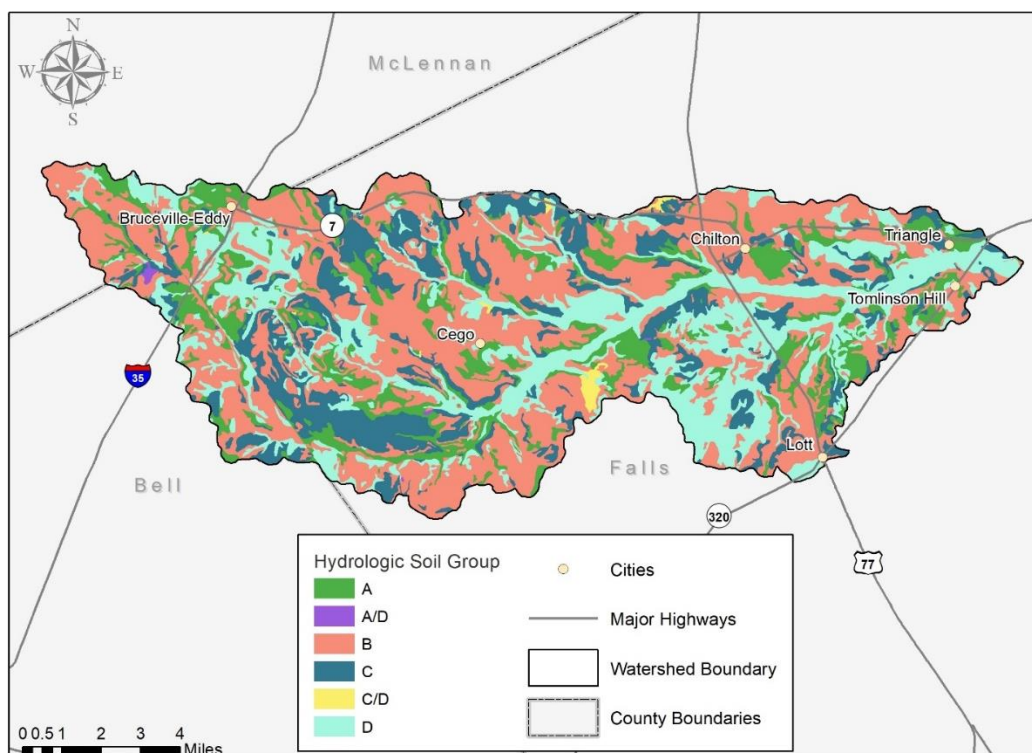


Figure 11. Deer Creek watershed Hydrologic Soil Groups

Table 3. Descriptions of the Hydrologic Soil Groups in the Deer Creek watershed

Hydrologic Soil Group	Acres	Percent of Total
Null	0	0.00%
A	11,192	15.23%
A/D	81	0.11%
B	31,407	42.74%
B/D	0	0.00%
C	12,510	17.03%
C/D	337	0.46%
D	17,949	24.43%
Total	73,476	100%

## Middle Yegua, Davidson, and Deer Creeks Characterization Report

The USDA NRCS provides suitability ratings for septic tank absorption fields based on soil properties, depth to bedrock or groundwater, hydraulic conductivity, and other properties that may affect the absorption of on-site sewage facilities (OSSF) effluent, installation, and maintenance. A “Not Limited” rating indicates soils with features favorable to OSSF use. “Somewhat Limited” indicates soils that are moderately favorable, with limitations that can be overcome by design, planning, and installation. “Very Limited” indicates soils that are very unfavorable for OSSF use, with expectation of poor performance and high amounts of maintenance. The majority of the soils in all three watersheds are rated “Very Limited” for OSSF use, followed by smaller areas rated “Somewhat Limited” (**Error! Reference source not found., Error! Reference source not found., Error! Reference source not found.**) (NRCS, 2019).

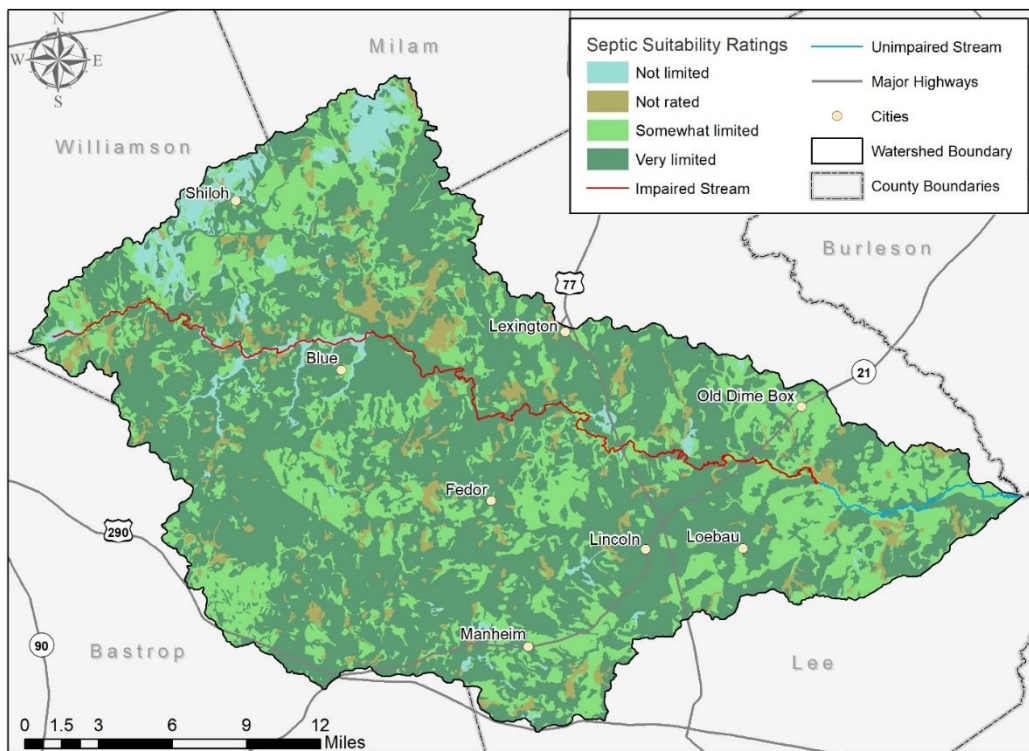


Figure 12. Middle Yegua Creek watershed OSSF adsorption field ratings

## Middle Yegua, Davidson, and Deer Creeks Characterization Report

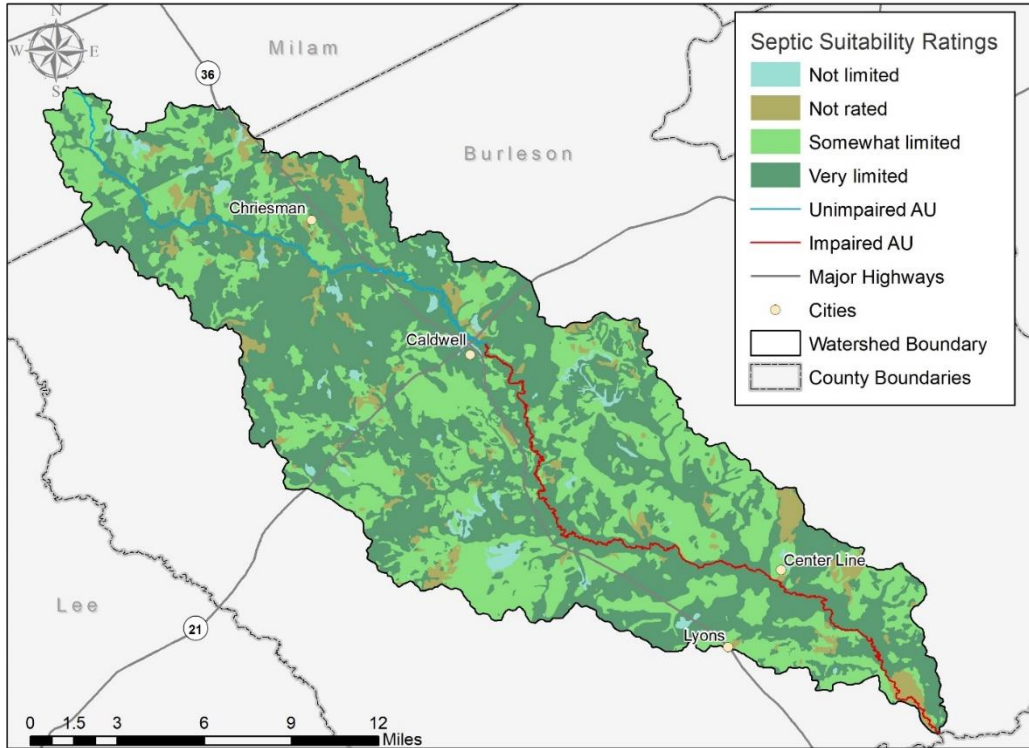


Figure 13. Davidson Creek watershed OSSF adsorption field ratings

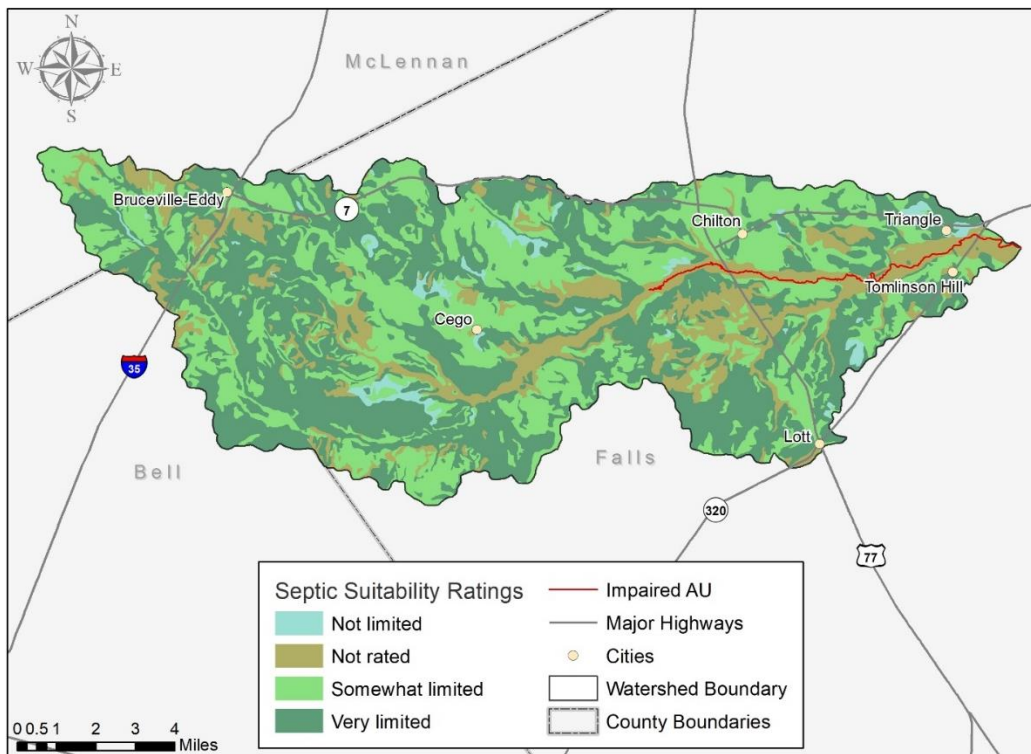


Figure 14. Deer Creek watershed OSSF adsorption field ratings

## Ecoregions

Ecoregions are land areas with ecosystems that contain similar quality and quantity of natural resources (Griffith et al., 2007). Ecoregions have been delineated into four separate levels; level I is the most unrefined classification while level IV is the most refined. Middle Yegua Creek watershed is located in two ecoregions (level III ecoregions), including the East Central Texas Plains Ecoregion (33) through Bastrop, Lee, Milam and Williamson counties, and a tiny portion in the Texas Blackland Prairies (32) in Williamson County (**Error! Reference source not found.**). Davidson Creek is located in one level III ecoregion, the East Central Texas Plains Ecoregion (33) (**Error! Reference source not found.**). Deer Creek is also located in one level III ecoregion, the Texas Blackland Prairies Ecoregion (32) (**Error! Reference source not found.**). The dominant soil types for these ecoregions are fine-textured clay and acidic, sandy or clay loams, respectively. The watersheds are further subdivided into four level IV ecoregions identified as the Northern Blackland Prairie (32a), Floodplains and Low Terraces (32c), Southern Post Oak Savanna (33b), and San Antonio Prairie (33c).

The landscape in the area of Northern Blackland Prairie (32a) is mainly underlain by vertisols with dark, fine-textured and calcareous characters. The main land cover are cropland and non-native pasture, with a small portion of deciduous forest and woodlands. Dominant grasses are eastern gamagrass and switchgrass. The Floodplains and Low Terraces (32c) landscape includes broad floodplains. A majority of the bottomland forests have been converted to cropland and pasture.

The Southern Post Oak Savanna (33b) has more woods and forest than the adjacent prairie ecoregions (32). The land cover is a mix of woods, improved pasture, and rangeland. The San Antonio Prairies (33c) soils are mostly Alfisols, with some Vertisols, and Mollisols. The upland prairies are dominated by little blue stem and yellow Indiangrass. The land cover is comprised of woodland, improved pasture, rangeland, and some cropland.



## Middle Yegua, Davidson, and Deer Creeks Characterization Report

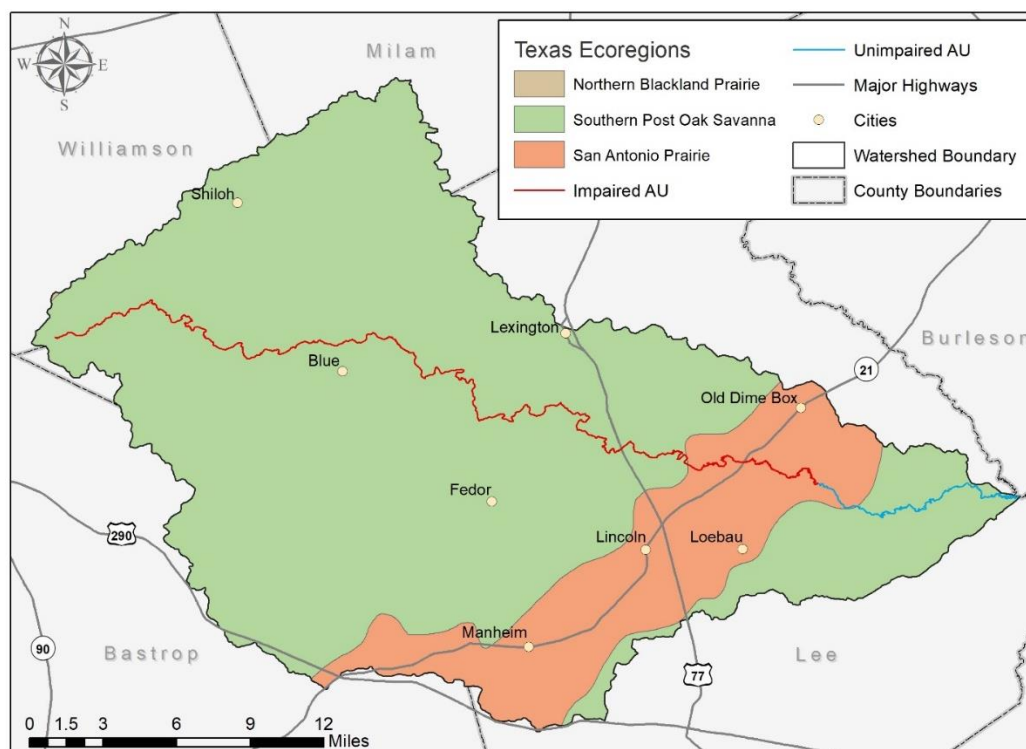


Figure 15. Middle Yegua Creek watershed ecoregions

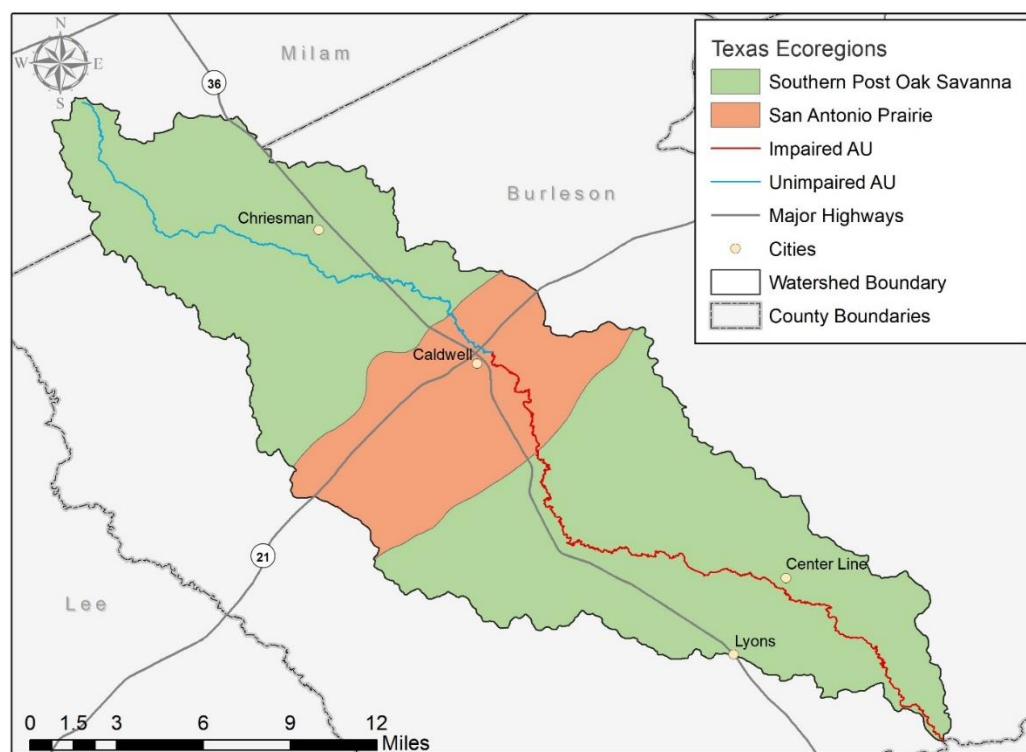


Figure 16. Davidson Creek watershed ecoregions

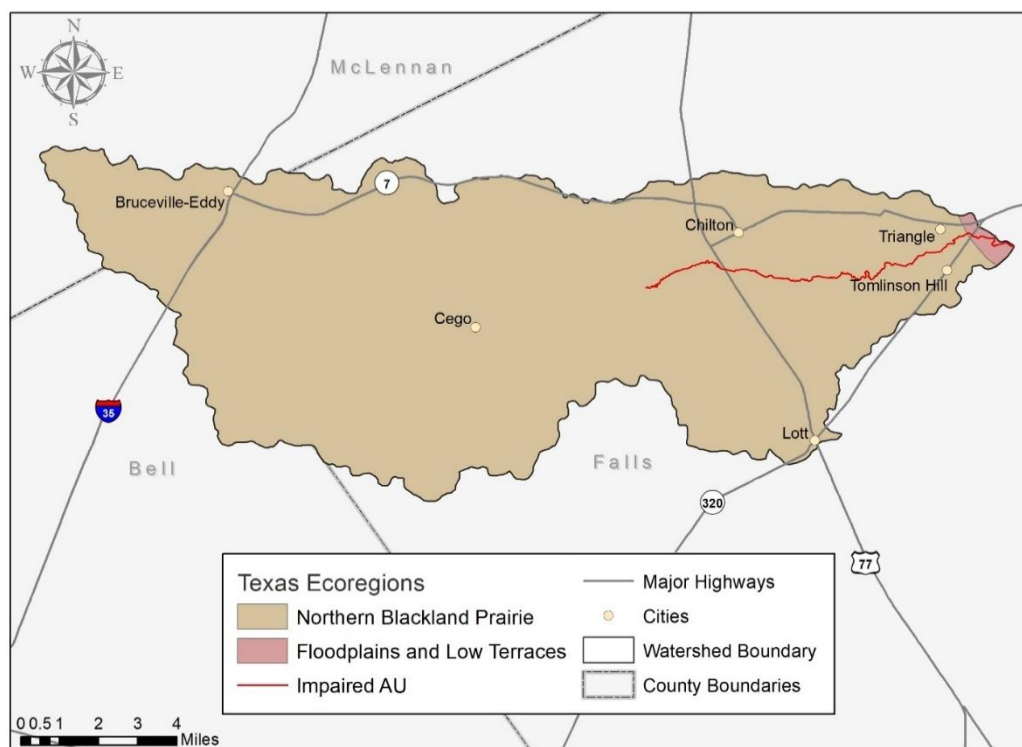


Figure 17. Deer Creek watershed ecoregions

## Land Use and Land Cover

Land use and land cover (LULC) data for each of the watersheds was obtained from the 2016 National Land Cover Database (NLCD) at a 30m raster resolution. LULC is categorized into 15 different classifications and the LULC for all the watersheds are described in **Error! Reference source not found.** through **Error! Reference source not found.** and **Error! Reference source not found.** through **Error! Reference source not found.**. The different land covers are not evenly distributed across the watersheds. Quantitatively describing the land use classifications for each watershed is necessary for future planning decisions.

- Open Water: areas of open water that are generally less than 25% vegetation or soil cover.
- Developed, Open Space: areas that have a mixture of constructed materials, but mostly vegetation in the form of lawn grasses exist. Impervious surfaces account for less than 20% of total cover. Such areas typically include large-lot single family housing units, parks, golf courses and vegetation planted in developed settings for recreation, erosion control or aesthetic purposes.
- Developed, Low Intensity: areas that consist of a mix of constructed materials and vegetation. Impervious surfaces account for 20%-49% of total cover. These areas commonly include single-family housing units.
- Developed, Medium Intensity: areas that consist of a mixture of constructed materials and vegetation. Impervious surfaces account for 50%-79% of the total cover. These areas commonly include single-family housing units.
- Developed, High Intensity: highly developed areas where people reside or work in high numbers. Areas include apartment complexes, row houses and commercial/industrial. Impervious surfaces account for 80% to 100% of the total cover.

## Middle Yegua, Davidson, and Deer Creeks Characterization Report

- Barren Land: areas of bedrock, desert pavement, scarps, talus, slides, volcanic material, glacial debris, sand dunes, strip mines, gravel pits and other accumulations of earthen material. Generally, vegetation accounts for less than 15% of total cover.
- Deciduous Forest: areas dominated by trees generally greater than 5 meters tall and greater than 20% of total vegetation cover. More than 75% of tree species shed foliage simultaneously in response to seasonal change.
- Evergreen Forest: areas dominated by trees generally greater than 5 meters tall and greater than 20% total vegetation cover. More than 75% of the tree species maintain their leaves year-round. Canopy is never without green foliage.
- Mixed Forest: areas dominated by trees generally greater than 5 meters tall and greater than 20% of total vegetation cover. Neither deciduous nor evergreen species are greater than 75% of total tree cover.
- Shrub/Scrub: areas dominated by shrubs; less than 5 meters tall with shrub canopy typically greater than 20% of total vegetation. This class includes true shrubs, young trees in early successional stage or trees stunted from environmental conditions.
- Herbaceous: areas dominated by graminoid or herbaceous vegetation, generally greater than 80% of total vegetation. These types of areas are not subject to intensive management such as tilling but can be used for grazing.
- Pasture/Hay: areas of grass, legumes or grass-legume mixtures planted for livestock grazing or the production of seed or hay crops.
- Cultivated Crops: areas used to produce annual crops, such as corn, soybeans, vegetables, tobacco, and cotton, and perennial woody crops such as orchards and vineyards. Crop vegetation accounts for greater than 20% of total vegetation. This class includes all land being actively tilled.
- Woody Wetlands: areas where forest or shrubland vegetation accounts for greater than 20% of vegetative cover and the soil or substrate is periodically saturated with or covered with water.
- Emergent Herbaceous Wetlands: areas where perennial herbaceous vegetation accounts for greater than 80% of vegetative cover and the soil or substrate is periodically saturated with or covered with water.

The Middle Yegua Creek watershed (**Error! Reference source not found.**) encompasses 281,798 acres and is predominantly pasture/hay (55.6%) followed by deciduous forest (14.9%) (**Error! Reference source not found.**). Urban development comprises approximately 11,103 acres or 4% of the watershed.

## Middle Yegua, Davidson, and Deer Creeks Characterization Report

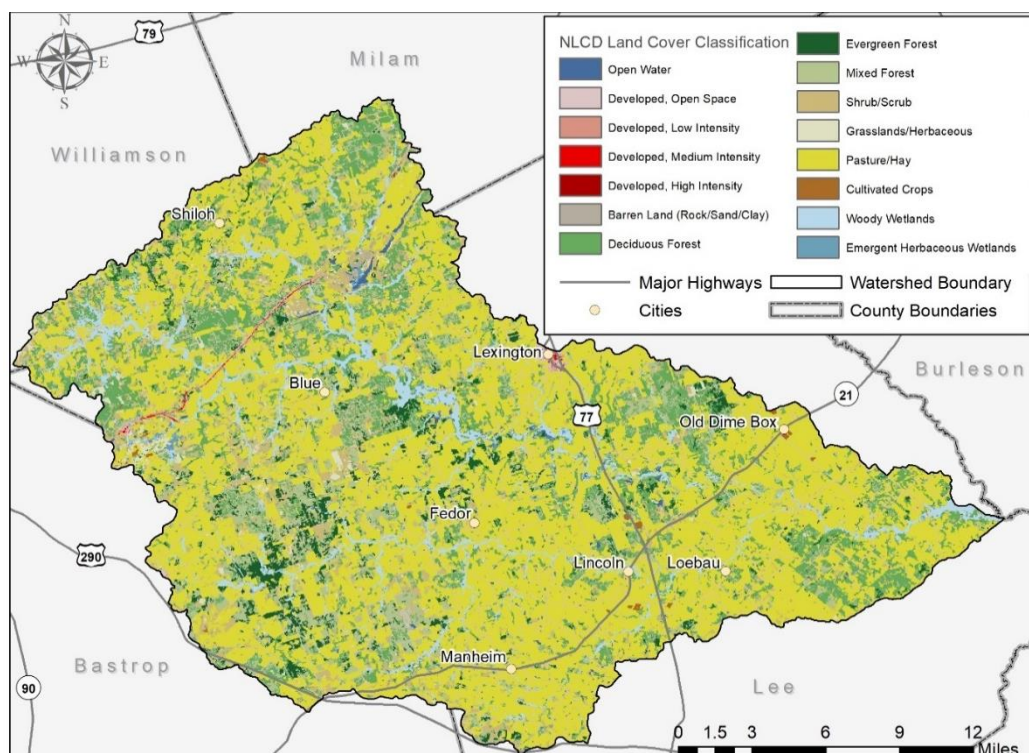


Figure 18. Land use and land cover classifications in the Middle Yegua Creek watershed (NLCD, 2016).

Table 4. LULC classifications for Middle Yegua Creek watershed (NLCD, 2016).

NLCD Classification	Acres	Percent of Total
Open Water	1,836	0.7%
Developed, Open Space	9,519	3.4%
Developed, Low Intensity	1,242	0.4%
Developed, Medium Intensity	308	0.1%
Developed, High Intensity	34	0.0%
Barren Land	709	0.3%
Deciduous Forest	41,912	14.9%
Evergreen Forest	9,238	3.3%
Mixed Forest	24,117	8.6%
Shrub/Scrub	17,897	6.4%
Grassland/Herbaceous	3,814	1.4%
Pasture/Hay	156,655	55.6%
Cultivated Crops	437	0.2%
Woody Wetlands	12,893	4.6%

# Middle Yegua, Davidson, and Deer Creeks Characterization Report

NLCD Classification	Acres	Percent of Total
Emergent Herbaceous Wetlands	1,187	0.4%
Total	281,798 acres	100%

The Davidson Creek watershed (**Error! Reference source not found.**) encompasses 139,367 acres and is predominantly pasture/hay (57.4%) followed by deciduous forest (17.8%) (**Error! Reference source not found.**). Urban development comprises approximately 7,515 acres or 5% of the watershed.

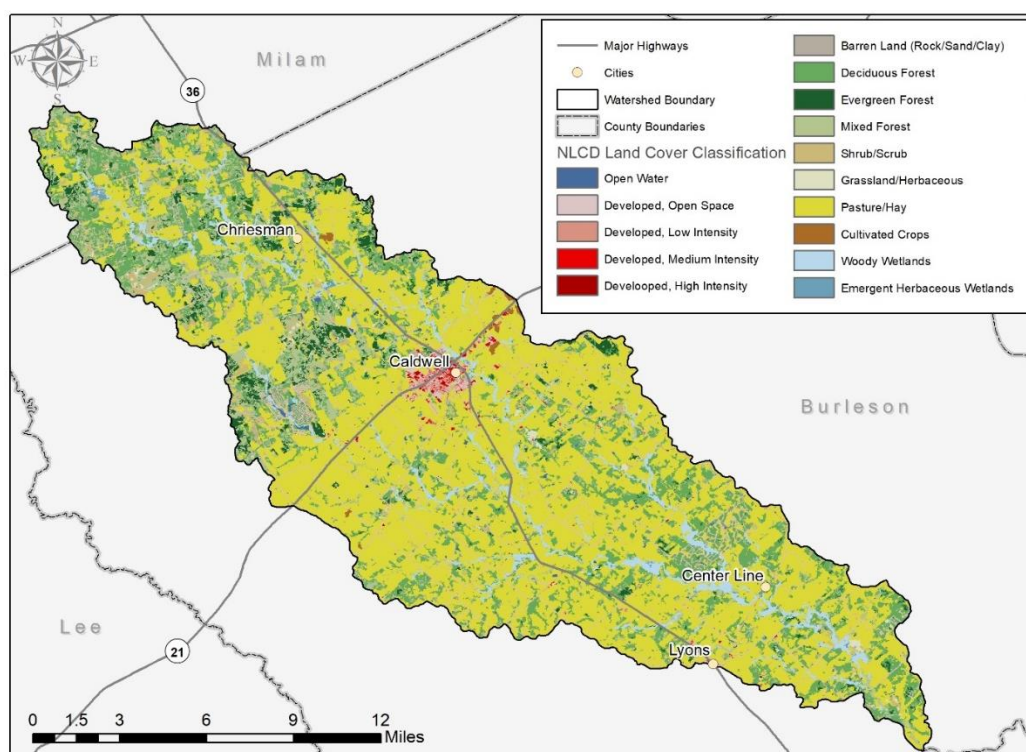


Figure 19. Land use and land cover classifications in the Davidson Creek watershed (NLCD, 2016).

Table 5. LULC classifications for Davidson Creek watershed (NLCD, 2016).

NLCD Classification	Acres	Percent of Total
Open Water	521	0.4%
Developed, Open Space	5,478	3.9%
Developed, Low Intensity	1,439	1.0%
Developed, Medium Intensity	465	0.3%
Developed, High Intensity	134	0.1%



# Middle Yegua, Davidson, and Deer Creeks Characterization Report

NLCD Classification	Acres	Percent of Total
Barren Land	379	0.3%
Deciduous Forest	24,762	17.8%
Evergreen Forest	4,169	3.0%
Mixed Forest	11,382	8.2%
Shrub/Scrub	3,304	2.4%
Grassland/Herbaceous	872	0.6%
Pasture/Hay	80,055	57.4%
Cultivated Crops	277	0.2%
Woody Wetlands	5,666	4.1%
Emergent Herbaceous Wetlands	465	0.3%
Total	139,367 acres	100%

The Deer Creek watershed (**Error! Reference source not found.**) encompasses 73,476 acres and is predominantly grassland/herbaceous (35.9%) followed closely by cultivated crops (33.6%) (**Error! Reference source not found.**). Urban development comprises approximately 3,797 acres or 5% of the watershed.

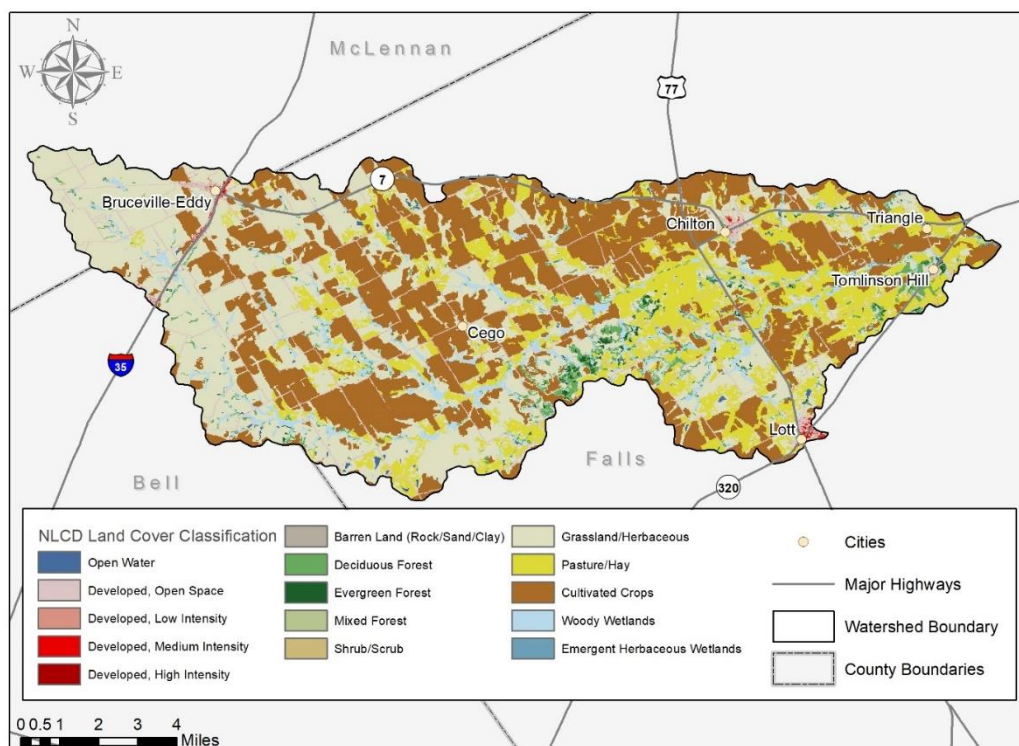


Figure 20. Land use and land cover classifications in the Deer Creek watershed (NLCD, 2016).

## Middle Yegua, Davidson, and Deer Creeks Characterization Report

Table 6. LULC classifications for Deer Creek watershed (NLCD, 2016).

NLCD Classification	Acres	Percent of Total
Open Water	227	0.3%
Developed, Open Space	3,292	4.5%
Developed, Low Intensity	321	0.4%
Developed, Medium Intensity	161	0.2%
Developed, High Intensity	23	0.0%
Barren Land	9	0.0%
Deciduous Forest	1,744	2.4%
Evergreen Forest	356	0.5%
Mixed Forest	157	0.2%
Shrub/Scrub	64	0.1%
Grassland/Herbaceous	26,370	35.9%
Pasture/Hay	12,803	17.4%
Cultivated Crops	24,677	33.6%
Woody Wetlands	3,177	4.3%
Emergent Herbaceous Wetlands	95	0.1%
Total	73,476 acres	100%

## Climate

There is one active weather station recording precipitation and temperature data in the Middle Yegua Creek watershed. That weather station is the Lexington, TX USC00415193 weather station (NOAA, 2016) and it was used to determine the approximate precipitation and temperature data for the watershed (**Error! Reference source not found.**). Monthly normal air temperature indicates daily mean air temperature was 66.9°F (NOAA, 2016). Minimum average daily temperatures reached a low of 37.2°F in January. The maximum average daily temperature reached a peak of 95.3°F in August. Monthly normal precipitation, from the weather station, indicates that the area had a mean annual rainfall from 1981-2010 of 36.6 inches (NOAA, 2016). Rainfall normally peaks in October (5.04 inches) with the lowest totals occurring in April (2.05 inches) (NOAA, 2016). Average annual precipitation values across the study area from the PRISM Climate Group at Oregon State (2012) indicate average annual rainfall ranges from 34 to 38 inches per year across the watershed, with a clear East to West decreasing gradient (**Error! Reference source not found.**).

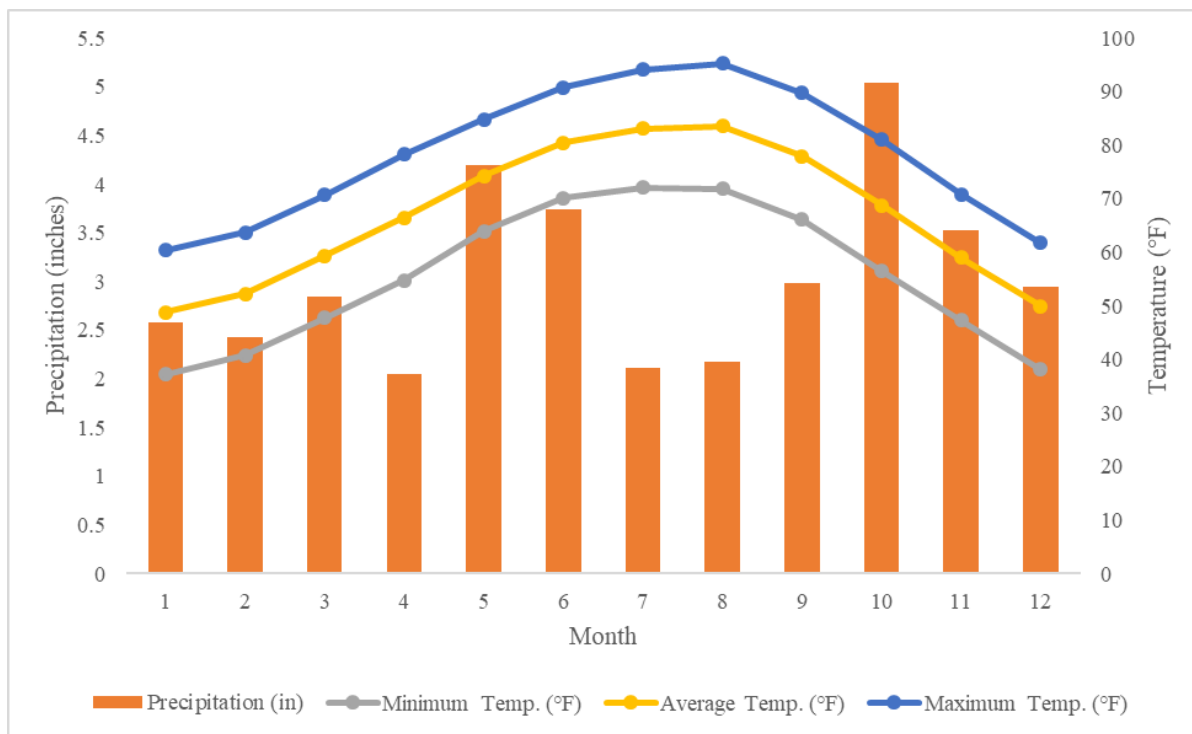


Figure 21. Monthly climate data, including precipitation, normal average, maximum and minimum air temperature, for Lexington, Texas from 1981-2010 (NOAA, 2016).

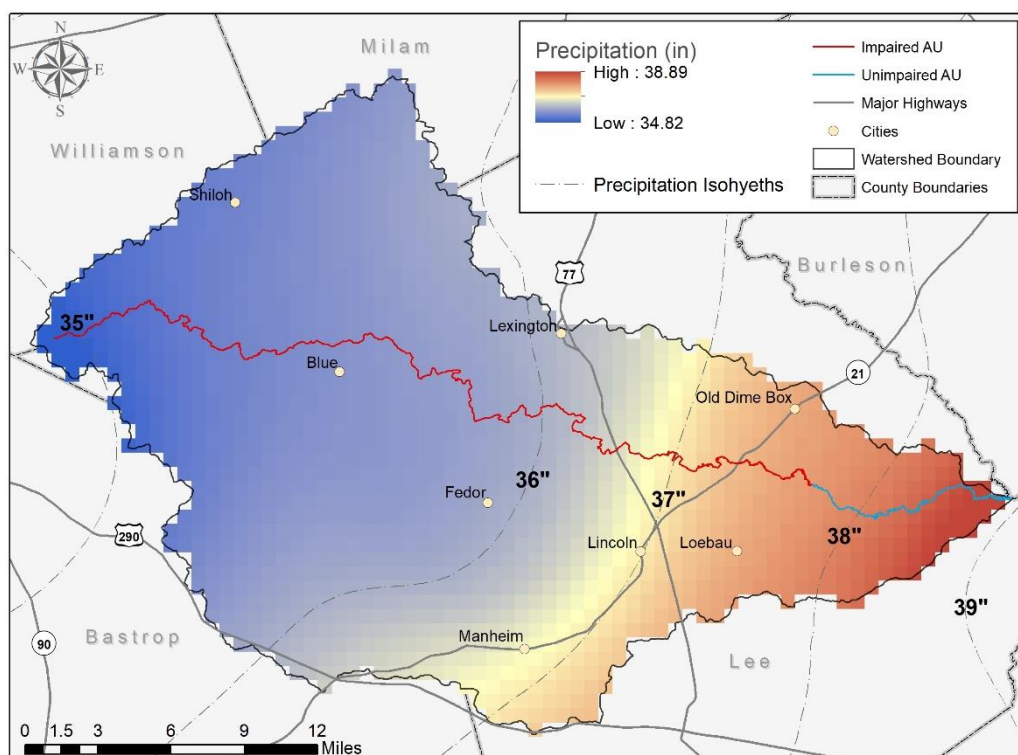


Figure 22. 30-year average precipitation in the Middle Yegua Creek watershed (PRISM, 2012).

There are no active weather stations recording precipitation or temperature data within the boundaries of the Davidson Creek or Deer Creek watersheds. Therefore, nearby weather stations were used to determine the approximate precipitation and temperature data for the watersheds.

Therefore, the nearby Somerville Dam, TX USC00418446 weather station (NOAA, 2016) was used to determine the approximate precipitation and temperature data for the watershed (**Error! Reference source not found.**). Monthly normal air temperature indicates daily mean air temperature was 67.4°F (NOAA, 2016). Minimum average daily temperatures reached a low of 36.8°F in January. The maximum average daily temperature reached a peak of 96.5°F in August. Monthly normal precipitation, from the weather station, indicates that the area had a mean annual rainfall from 1981-2010 of 38.7 inches (NOAA, 2016). Rainfall normally peaks in October (4.47 inches) with the lowest totals occurring in July (1.89 inches) (NOAA, 2016). Average annual precipitation values across the study area from the PRISM Climate Group at Oregon State (2012) indicate average annual rainfall ranges from 36 to 40 inches per year across the watershed, with a clear East to West decreasing gradient (**Error! Reference source not found.**).

## Middle Yegua, Davidson, and Deer Creeks Characterization Report

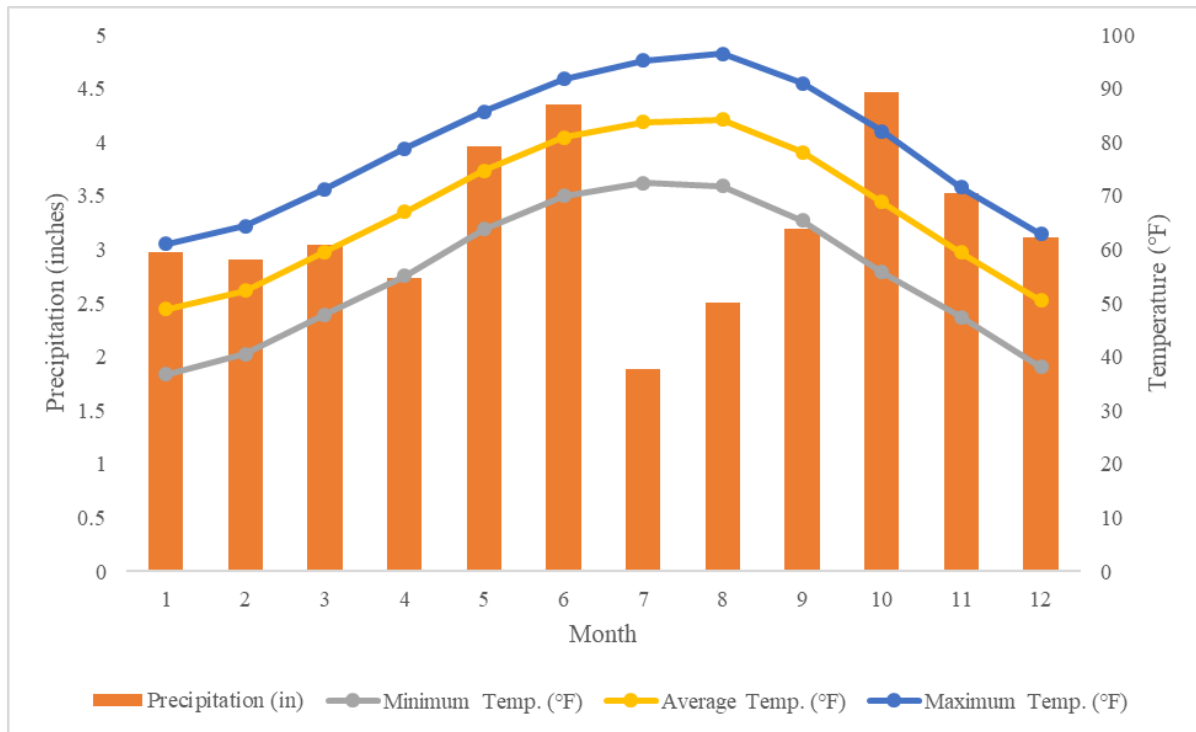


Figure 23. Monthly climate data, including precipitation, normal average, maximum and minimum air temperature, for Somerville Dam, Texas from 1981-2010 (NOAA, 2016).

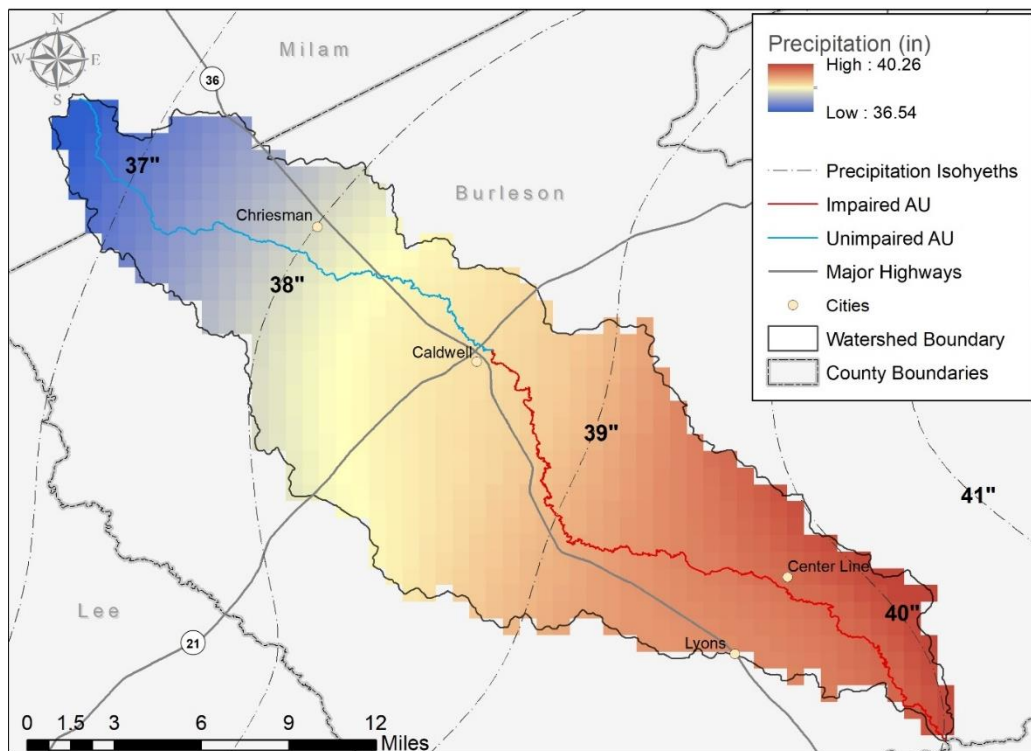


Figure 24. 30-year average precipitation in the Davidson Creek watershed (PRISM, 2012).



## Middle Yegua, Davidson, and Deer Creeks Characterization Report

The weather station chosen to determine the approximate precipitation and temperature data for the Deer Creek watershed was the Marlin, TX USC00415611 station (NOAA, 2016) (**Error! Reference source not found.**). Monthly normal air temperature indicates daily mean air temperature was 66.4°F (NOAA, 2016). Minimum average daily temperatures reached a low of 35.4°F in January. The maximum average daily temperature reached a peak of 95.6°F in August. Monthly normal precipitation, from the weather station, indicates that the area had a mean annual rainfall from 1981-2010 of 38.5 inches (NOAA, 2016). Rainfall normally peaks in May (4.76 inches) with the lowest totals occurring in July (2.07 inches) (NOAA, 2016). Average annual precipitation values across the study area from the PRISM Climate Group at Oregon State (2012) indicate average annual rainfall ranges from 35 to 36 inches per year across the watershed (**Error! Reference source not found.**).

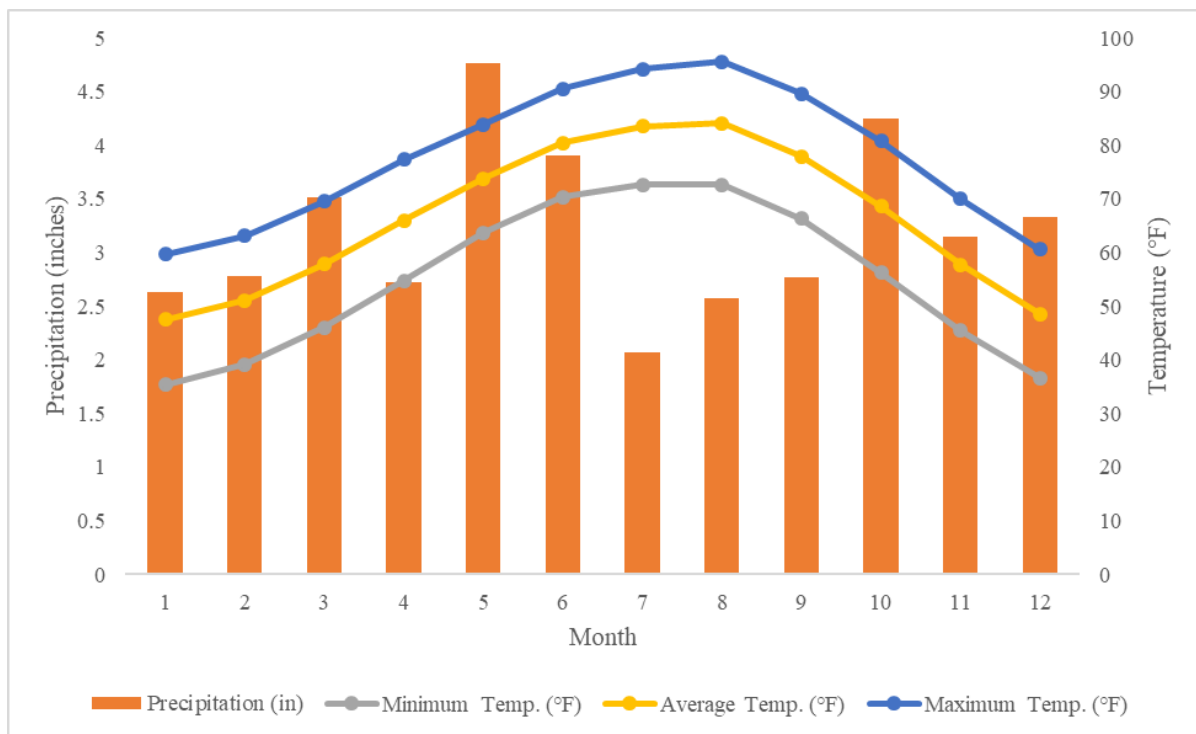


Figure 25. Monthly climate data, including precipitation, normal average, maximum and minimum air temperature, for Marlin, Texas from 1981-2010 (NOAA, 2016).

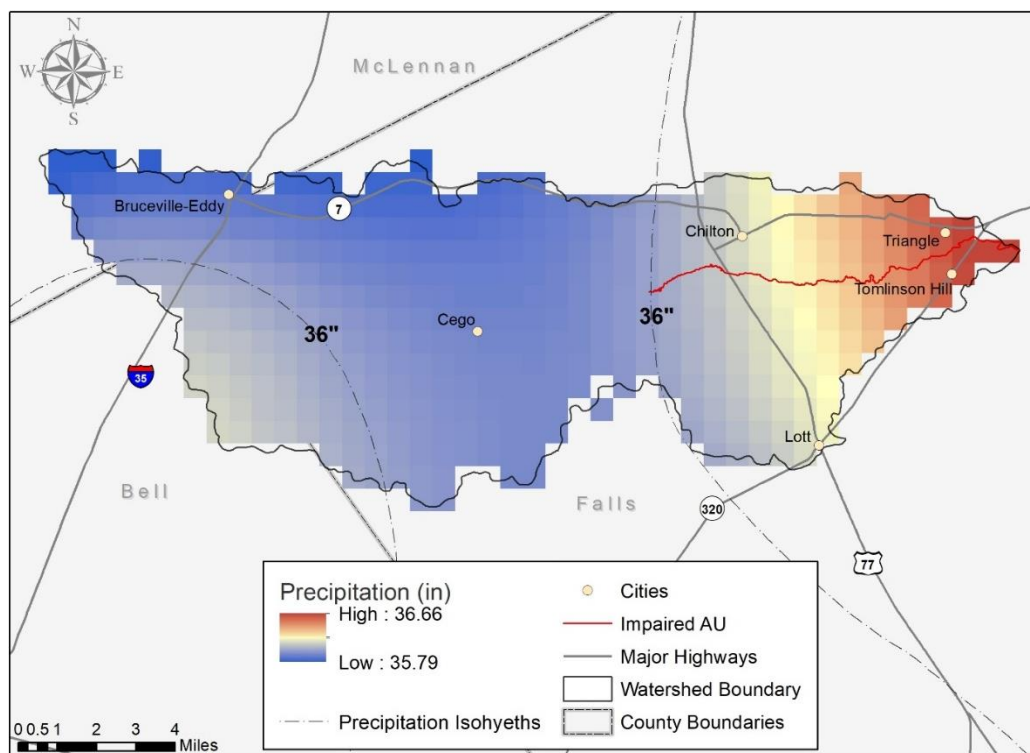


Figure 26. 30-year average precipitation in the Deer Creek watershed (PRISM, 2012).

## Demographics

Population estimates for all three watersheds were developed using 2010 US Census block data (USCB, 2010). Because US Census block boundaries are not the same as the watersheds boundaries, their populations were estimated by multiplying the census block populations to the percent of each block within the watersheds (**Error! Reference source not found., Error! Reference source not found., Error! Reference source not found.**). The following are the approximate populations of each watershed:

- Middle Yegua Creek watershed: 8,137
- Davidson Creek watershed: 8,666
- Deer Creek watershed: 4,116

Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) Regional Water Plan Population and Water Demand Projections (TWDB, 2016) were used to estimate population projections for counties within the watersheds (**Error! Reference source not found., Error! Reference source not found., Error! Reference source not found.**). From 2020-2070 the population of the Middle Yegua Creek watershed is estimated to increase by 92.9 percent, the Davidson Creek watershed by 33.9 percent, and the Deer Creek watershed by 64.1 percent. Note that the 2010 population totals in Tables 7-9 are based on county-level population data and differ slightly from the US Census block-based population estimates outlined above.

## Middle Yegua, Davidson, and Deer Creeks Characterization Report

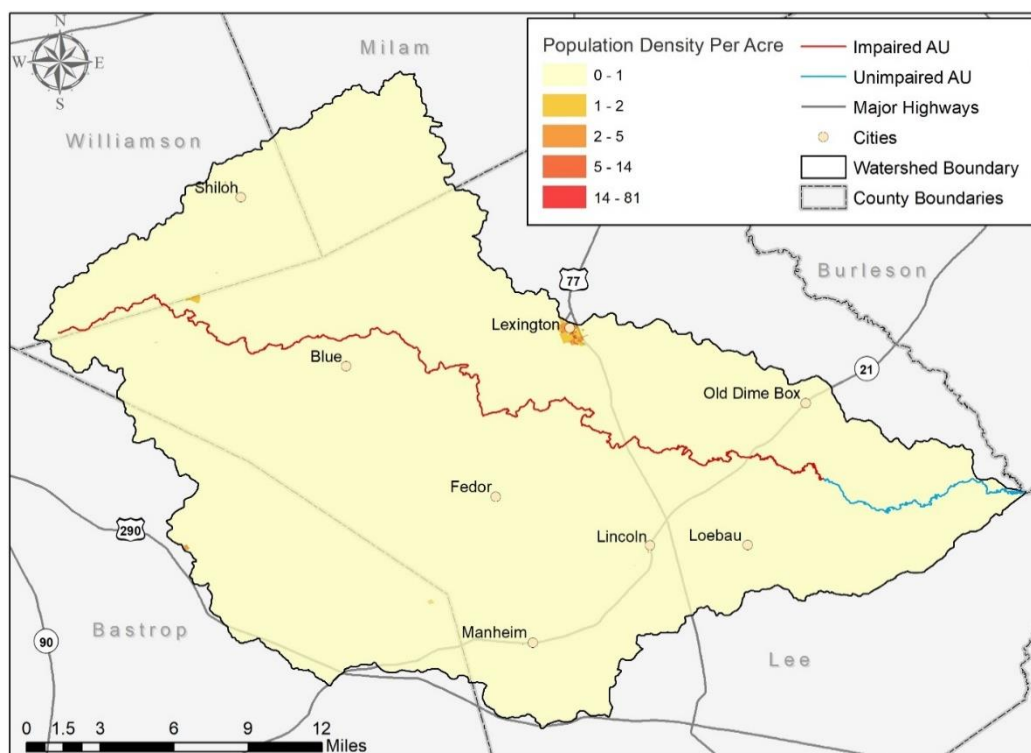


Figure 27. Middle Yegua Creek watershed 2010 population by census block

Table 7. Population projections by county for the Middle Yegua Creek watershed (TWDB, 2016)

County	2010 U.S Census	Projected Population in the Watershed by Year						Percent Increase (2010-2070)
		2020	2030	2040	2050	2060	2070	
Bastrop	493	837	1,181	1,524	1,868	2,212	2,555	418.1
Lee	8,463	9,081	9,699	10,316	10,934	11,552	12,170	43.8
Milam	686	722	758	795	831	867	904	31.8
Williamson	1,458	2,179	2,899	3,620	4,341	5,061	5,782	296.5
Total	11,100	12,819	14,537	16,256	17,974	19,693	21,411	92.9

# Middle Yegua, Davidson, and Deer Creeks Characterization Report

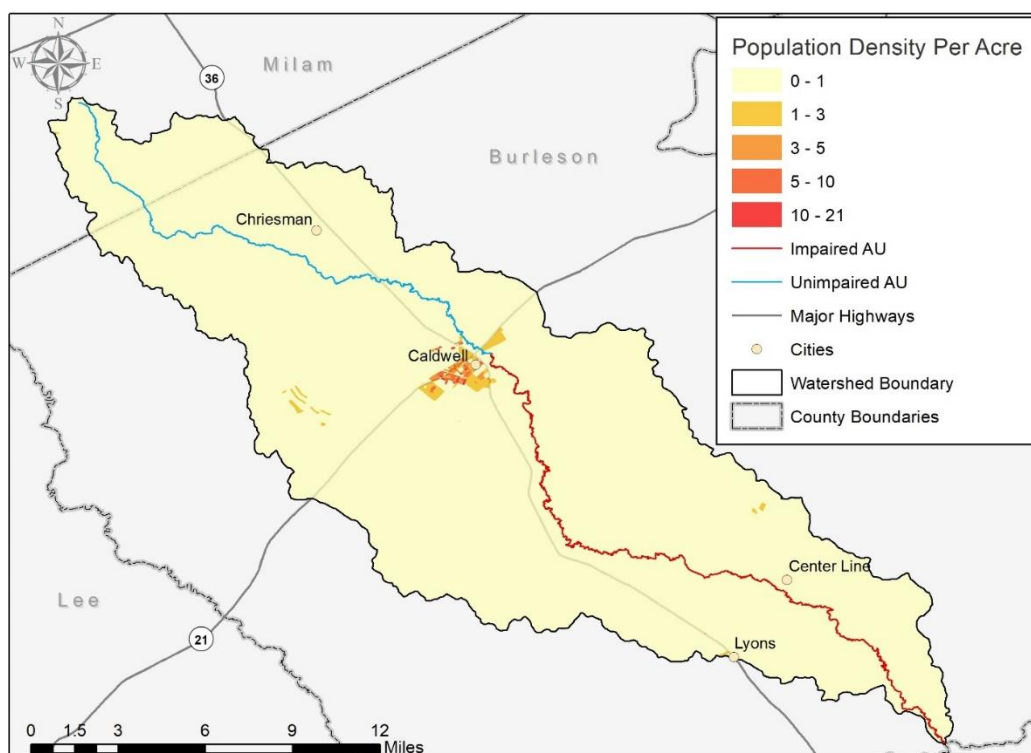


Figure 28. Davidson Creek watershed 2010 population by census block

Table 8. Population projections by county for the Davidson Creek watershed (TWDB, 2016)

County	2010 U.S Census	Projected Population in the Watershed by Year						Percent Increase (2010-2070)
		2020	2030	2040	2050	2060	2070	
Burleson	5,129	5,419	5,710	6,000	6,291	6,582	6,872	34.0
Milam	349	368	386	405	423	442	460	31.8
Total	5,478	5,787	6,096	6,405	6,714	7,023	7,332	33.9

# Middle Yegua, Davidson, and Deer Creeks Characterization Report

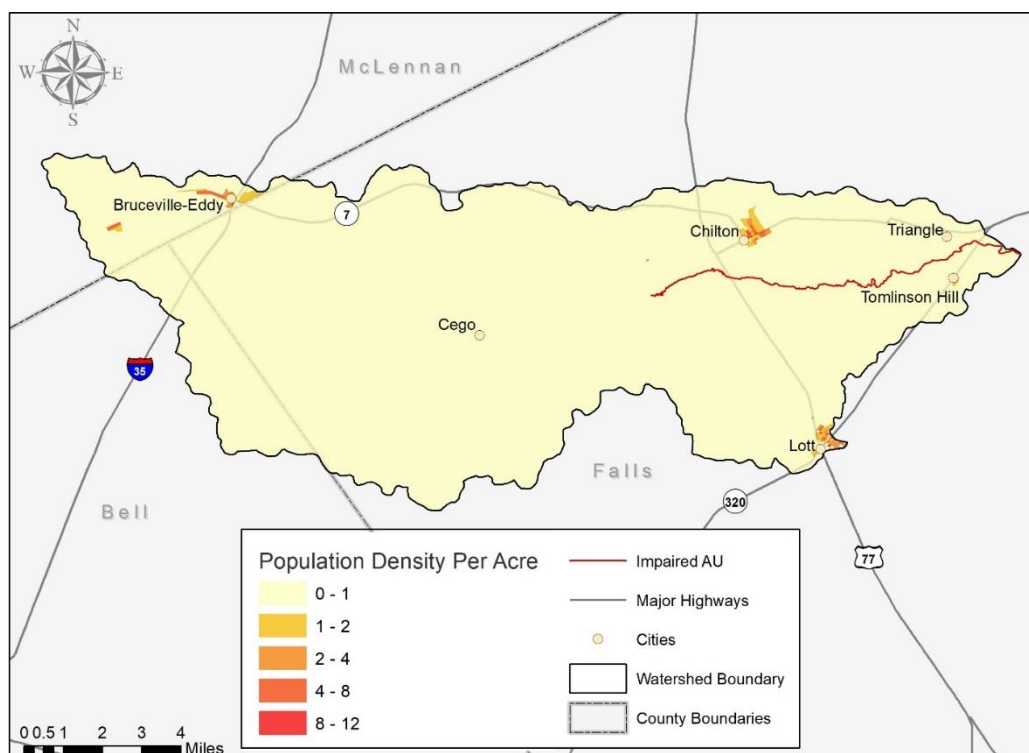


Figure 29. Deer Creek watershed 2010 population by census block

Table 9. Population projections by county for the Deer Creek watershed (TWDB, 2016)

County	2010 U.S Census	Projected Population in the Watershed by Year						Percent Increase (2010-2070)
		2020	2030	2040	2050	2060	2070	
Bell	2,364	2,844	3,324	3,804	4,284	4,763	5,243	121.8
Falls	2,335	2,411	2,488	2,564	2,640	2,716	2,793	19.6
McLennan	1,783	1,919	2,056	2,192	2,329	2,465	2,601	45.9
Total	6,482	7,175	7,867	8,560	9,252	9,945	10,637	64.1



## Water Quality

### Introduction

Under the Federal Clean Water Act (CWA) section 303(d) and 305(b), the State of Texas is required to identify water bodies that are unable to meet water quality standards for their designated uses. The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) assigns unique “segment” identifiers to each water body. Locations within a segment are broken up into hydrologically distinct AUs. The AUs are evaluated every two years to determine if they meet designated water quality standards, and those that are not meeting requirements are listed on the 303(d) List in the Texas Integrated Report (TCEQ, 2019b):

[https://www.tceq.texas.gov/assets/public/waterquality/swqm/assess/18txir/2018\\_303d.pdf](https://www.tceq.texas.gov/assets/public/waterquality/swqm/assess/18txir/2018_303d.pdf)

TCEQ defines the designated uses for all water bodies, which in turn establishes the water quality criteria to which a water body must adhere. Currently, all water bodies in the Middle Yegua Creek, Davidson Creek, and Deer Creek watersheds must meet “primary contact recreation” uses and support aquatic life use. The water quality for recreation use is evaluated by measuring concentrations of fecal indicator bacteria in 100 milliliters (mL) of water. Aquatic life use is a measure of a water body’s ability to support a healthy aquatic ecosystem. Aquatic life use is evaluated based on the dissolved oxygen (DO) concentration, toxic substance concentrations, ambient water and sediment toxicity, and indices of habitat, benthic macroinvertebrates, and fish communities. General use water quality requirements also include measures of temperature, pH, chloride, sulfate, and total dissolved solids. Currently, water bodies are also screened for levels of concern for nutrients and chlorophyll-a.

According to the *2018 Texas Integrated Report* and *303(d) List* (TCEQ, 2019b), there is one impaired AU due to elevated levels of bacteria in each watershed; AU 1212A\_02 in Middle Yegua Creek, AU 1211A\_02 in Davidson Creek, and AU 1242J\_01 in Deer Creek (**Error! Reference source not found., Error! Reference source not found., Error! Reference source not found.**). Davidson Creek is impaired for low DO concentrations along with the elevated levels of bacteria. There are also concerns for depressed dissolved oxygen and habitat in Middle Yegua Creek as well as concerns for the macrobenthic community in Deer Creek.

## Middle Yegua, Davidson, and Deer Creeks Characterization Report

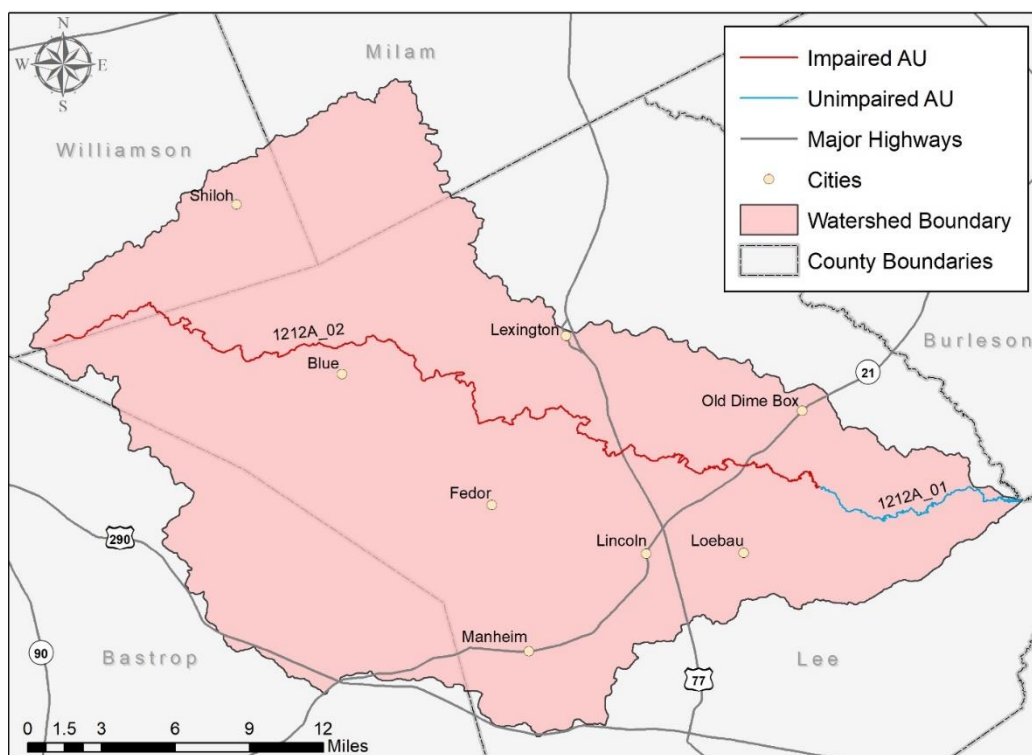


Figure 30. TCEQ assessment units and watershed impairments for Middle Yegua Creek watershed

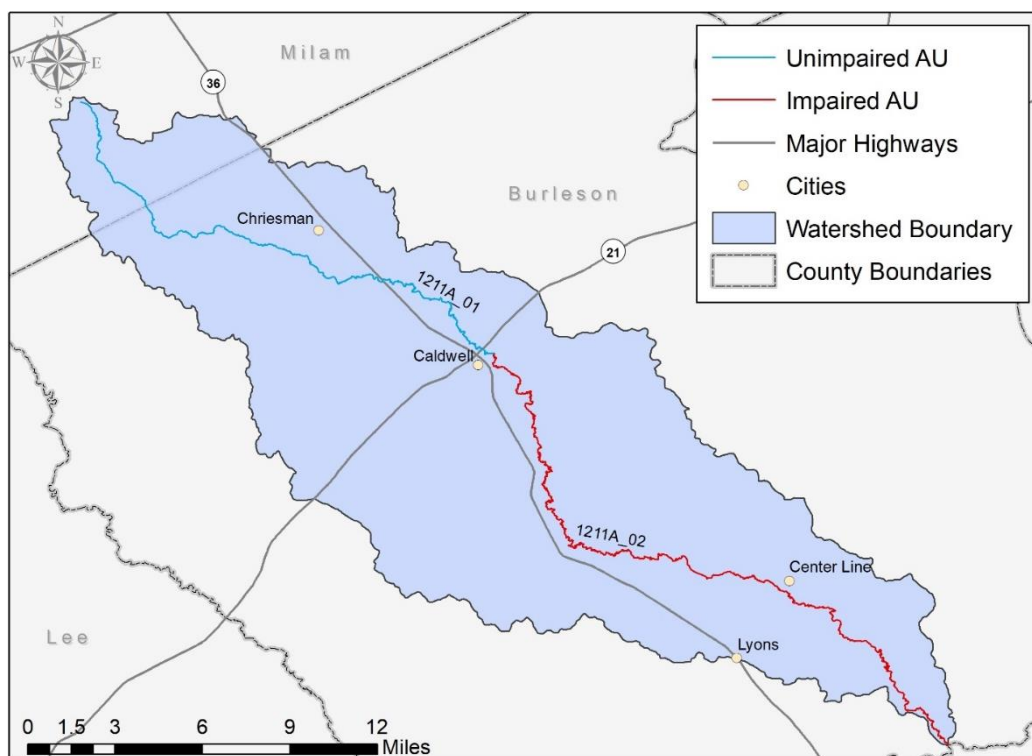


Figure 31. TCEQ assessment units and watershed impairments for Davidson Creek watershed

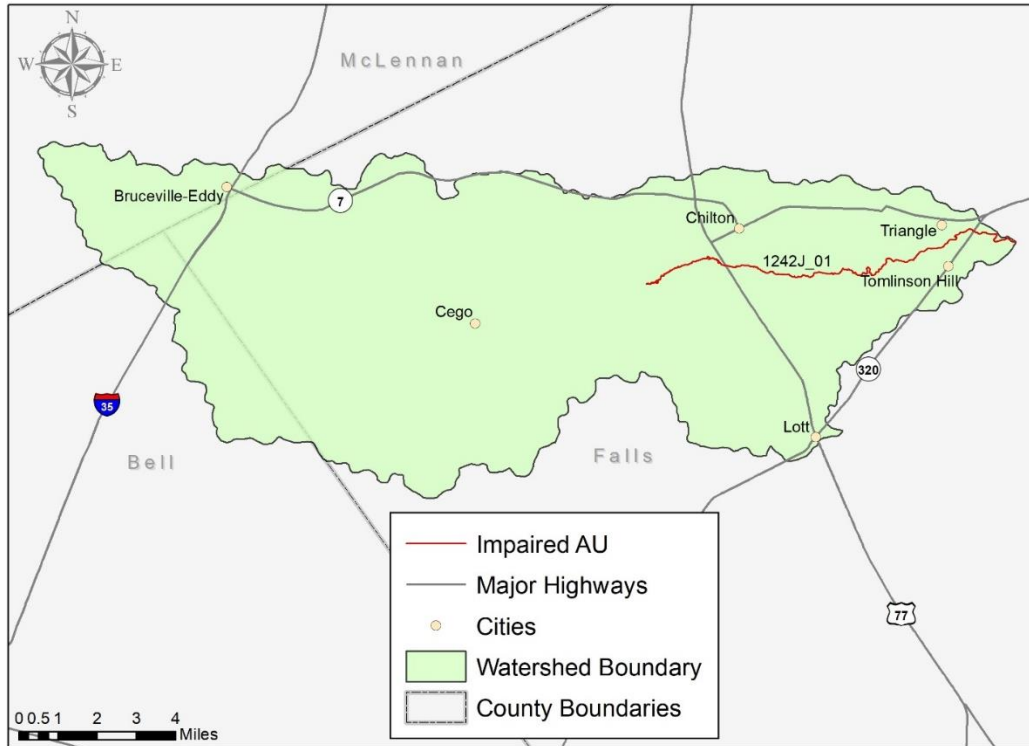


Figure 32. TCEQ assessment unit and watershed impairment for Deer Creek watershed

Water quality is monitored at designated sampling sites throughout the watershed. The TCEQ Surface Water Quality Monitoring Program (SWQM) coordinates the collection of water quality samples at specified water quality monitoring sites in the watersheds and the state (**Error! Reference source not found., Error! Reference source not found., Error! Reference source not found.**). Through the TCEQ Clean Rivers Program (CRP), the Brazos River Authority (BRA) conducts quarterly monitoring of field parameters (clarity, temperature, DO, specific conductance, pH, salinity and flow), conventional parameters (total suspended solids, sulfate, chloride, ammonia, total hardness, nitrate-nitrogen, total phosphorous, alkalinity, total organic carbon, turbidity and chlorophyll-a), and bacteria. Sites currently being monitored by BRA are detailed in **Error! Reference source not found.** The sites monitored by the Texas Water Resources Institute (TWRI) are detailed in **Error! Reference source not found.** At these sites, TWRI conducted monthly monitoring of field parameters (clarity, temperature, DO, specific, conductance, pH, and flow) and bacteria over a time period of 15 months.

## Middle Yegua, Davidson, and Deer Creeks Characterization Report

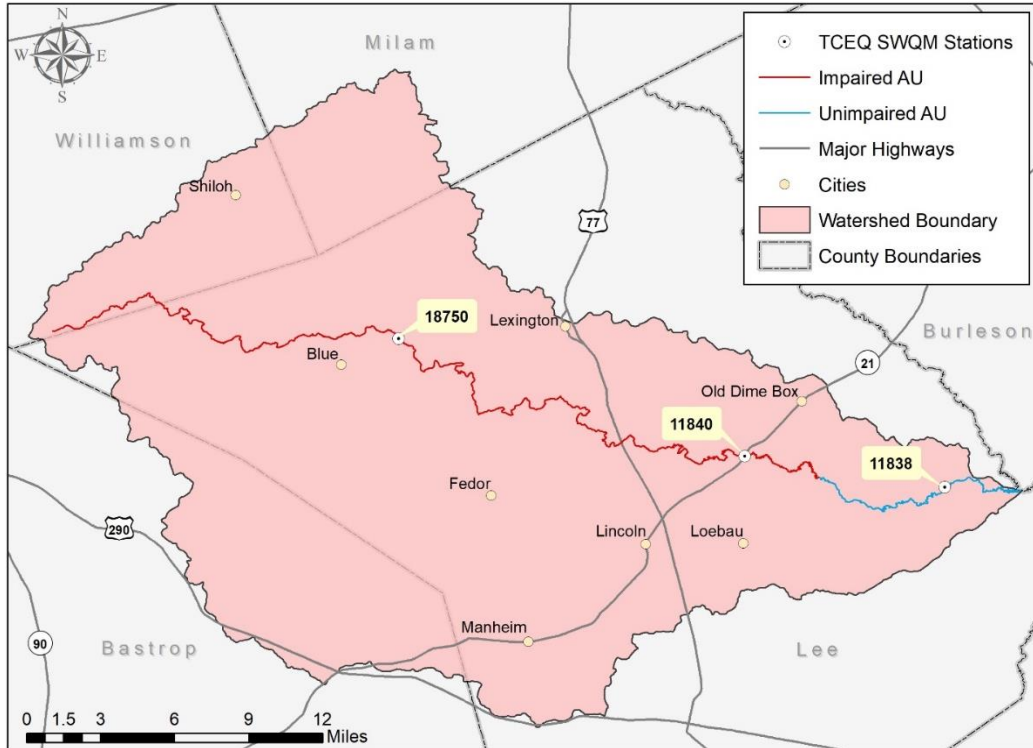


Figure 33. SWQM stations in the Middle Yegua Creek watershed

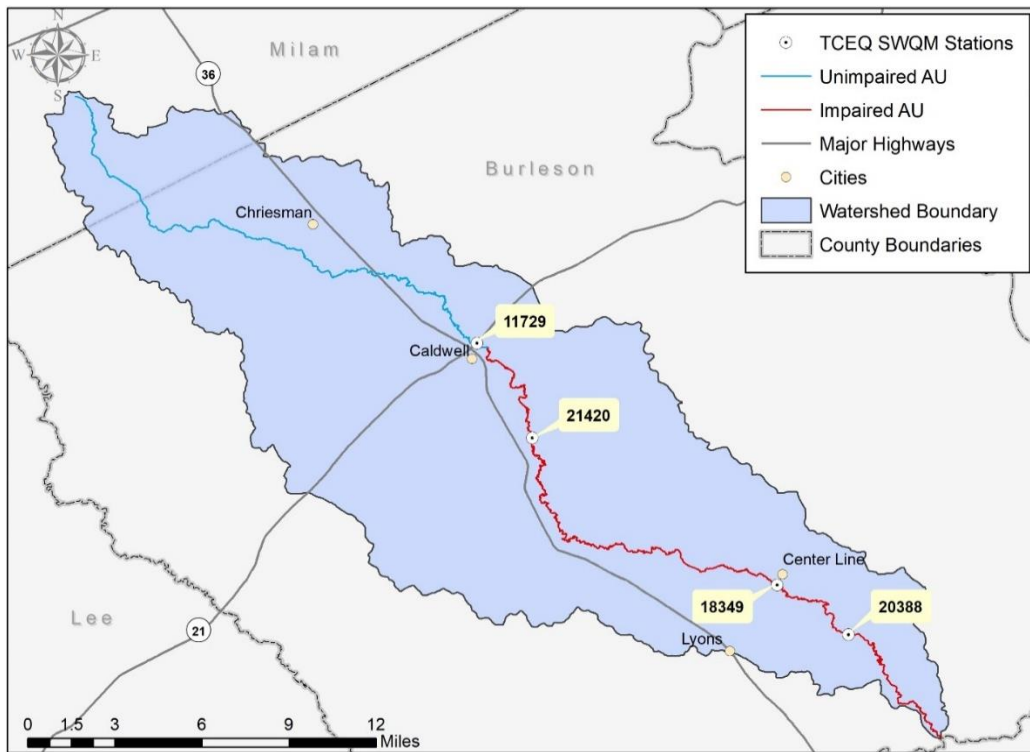


Figure 34. SWQM stations in the Davidson Creek watershed

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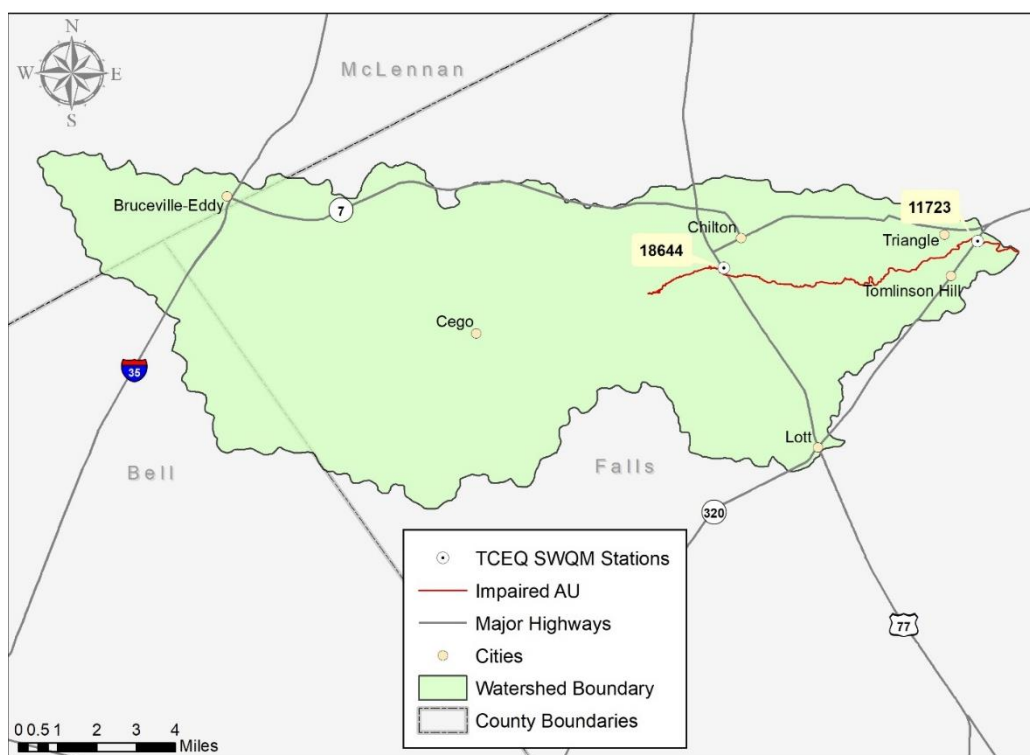


Figure 35. SWQM stations in the Deer Creek watershed

Table 10. Sites currently monitored by BRA

Station			Number of Annual Samples Collected				
ID	AU	Description	24 hr DO	Conventional	Field	Flow	Bacteria
11840	1212A_02	Middle Yegua Creek at SH 21 4.4 miles NE of Lincoln	4	4	4	4	4
20388	1211A_02	Davidson Creek 100 meters upstream of Burleson CR 423 NE of Somerville	4	4	4	4	4
11723	1242J_01	Deer Creek immediately downstream of SH 320 W of Marlin		4	4		4



Table 11. Sites currently monitored by TWRI

Station			Number of Samples Collected Between December 2018 – February 2020		
ID	AU	Description	Field	Flow	Bacteria
18750	1212A_02	Middle Yegua Creek immediately upstream of FM 696	15	15	15
11840	1212A_02	Middle Yegua Creek at SH 21 4.4 miles NE of Lincoln	15	15	15
11838	1212A_01	Middle Yegua Creek immediately upstream of FM 141 4 miles SE of Dime Box	15	14*	15
18349	1211A_02	Davidson Creek downstream of FM 60 near Lyons Texas	15	15	15
21420	1211A_02	Davidson Creek at CR 122 in Burleson County	15	15	15
11729	1211A_02	Davidson Creek immediately downstream of SH 21 0.5 miles NE of Caldwell	15	15	15
18644	1242J_01	Deer Creek downstream of US 77 S of Chilton	15		15
11723	1242J_01	Deer Creek immediately downstream of SH 320 W of Marlin	15		15

\*Flow measurement could not be collected for this station in April 2019 due to unsafe conditions.

## Bacteria

As mentioned above, concentrations of fecal indicator bacteria are evaluated to assess the risk of illness during contact recreation. In freshwater environments, concentrations of *E. coli* bacteria are measured to evaluate the presence of fecal contamination in water bodies from warm-blooded animals and other sources. The presence of fecal indicator bacteria may indicate that associated pathogens from the intestinal tracts of warm-blooded animals could be reaching water bodies and can cause illness in people that recreate in them. Indicator bacteria can originate from numerous sources including wildlife, domestic livestock, pets, malfunctioning OSSFs, urban and agricultural runoff, sanitary sewer overflows (SSOs), and direct discharges from wastewater treatment facilities (WWTFs).

Under the primary contact recreation standards, the geometric mean criterion for bacteria is 126 most probable number (MPN) of *E. coli* per 100mL. Currently, all water bodies in the Middle Yegua Creek, Davidson Creek, and Deer Creek watersheds are evaluated under this standard. As previously

## Middle Yegua, Davidson, and Deer Creeks Characterization Report

mentioned, three AUs [1212A\_02 (Middle Yegua Creek), 1211A\_02 (Davidson Creek), and 1242J\_01 (Deer Creek)] are listed as impaired due to elevated indicator bacteria **Error! Reference source not found.**

Table 12. Geometric means for historical *E. coli* data

AU	Description	Current Standard	<i>E. coli</i> Geometric Mean (MPN/100mL)	Supporting/Not Supporting
1212A_02	Middle Yegua Creek – From the confluence with West Yegua Creek upstream to headwaters of water body in Williamson County	126 MPN/100 mL <i>E. coli</i>	749.13 <sup>1</sup>	Not Supporting
1211A_02	Davidson Creek – Portion of Davidson Creek from confluence with unnamed tributary upstream to headwaters in Milam County	126 MPN/100 mL <i>E. coli</i>	2,212.19 <sup>2</sup>	Not Supporting
1242J_01	Deer Creek – Perennial stream from the confluence of the Brazos River upstream to the confluence of Dog Branch northwest of Lott	126 MPN/100 mL <i>E. coli</i>	459.59 <sup>1</sup>	Not Supporting

<sup>1</sup> 2016 Texas Integrated Report Assessment Results (TCEQ, 2019a)

<sup>2</sup> 2014 Texas Integrated Report Assessment Results (TCEQ, 2015a)

Currently, *E. coli* concentrations are measured at eight stations throughout the watersheds by TWRI and one station by the SWQM Water Quality Monitoring Team; one station in Middle Yegua Creek AU 1212A\_01, two stations in Middle Yegua Creek AU 1212A\_02, four stations in Davidson Creek AU 1211A\_02, and two stations in Deer Creek AU 1242J\_01. There are also sites on Middle Yegua Creek AU 1212A\_02 (SWQM station 18751) and Deer Creek AU 1242J\_01 (SWQM station 16407) that are no longer active but *E. coli* samples were collected at historically. *E. coli* measurements for each impaired AU, including historical stations, are shown in **Error! Reference source not found.** through **Error! Reference source not found.**

## Middle Yegua, Davidson, and Deer Creeks Characterization Report

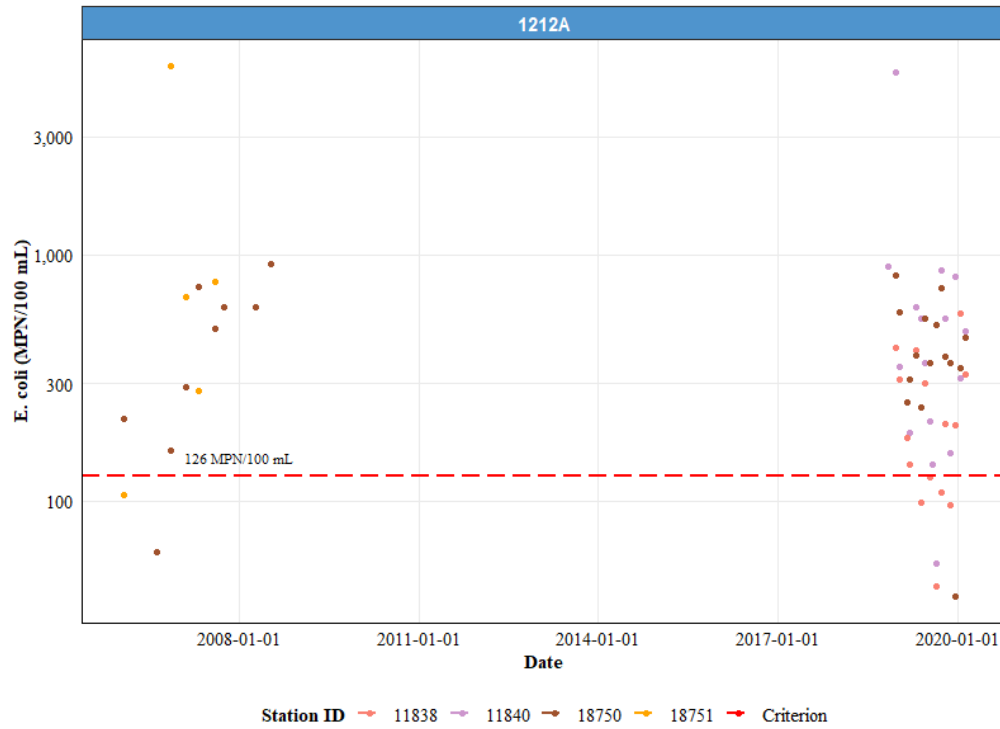


Figure 36. Historical *E. coli* concentrations for the Middle Yegua Creek watershed

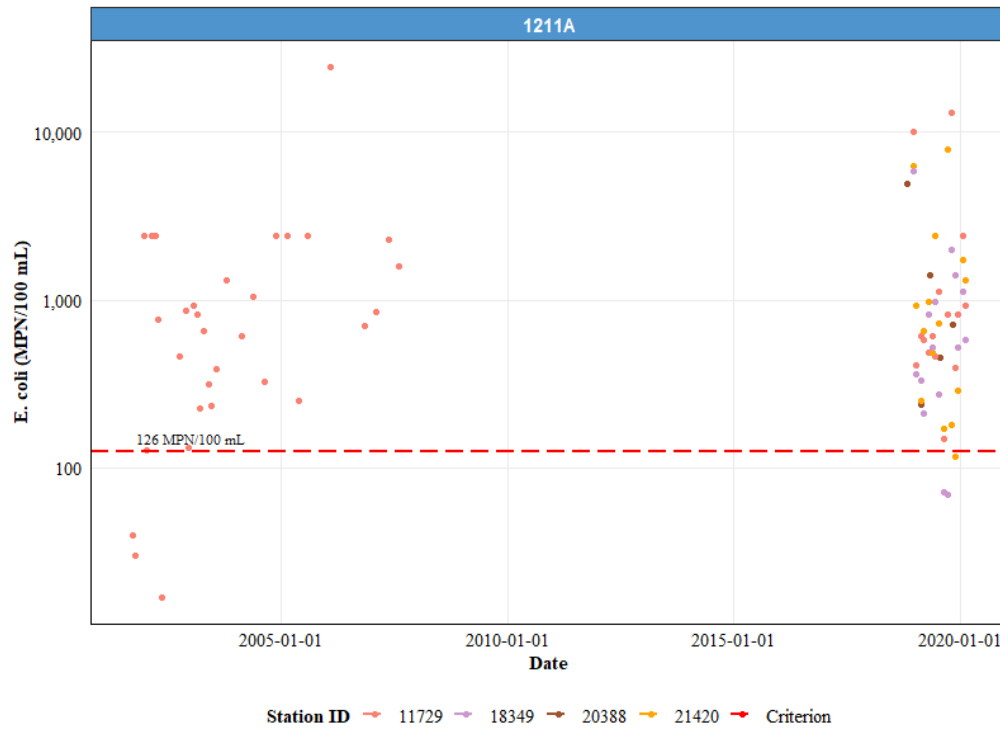
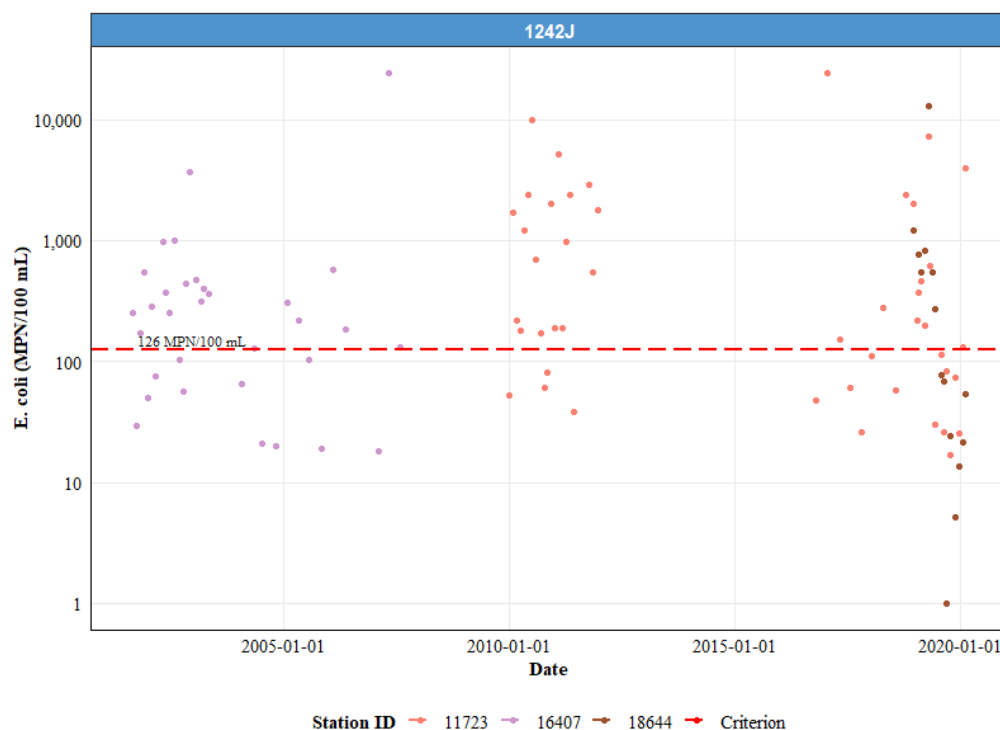


Figure 37. Historical *E. coli* concentrations for the Davidson Creek watershed

Figure 38. Historical *E. coli* concentrations for the Deer Creek watershed

## Dissolved Oxygen

DO is essential for aquatic organisms to survive and refers to the concentration of oxygen gas incorporated into water. DO concentrations naturally fluctuate in the environment, but anthropogenic activities can contribute excessive organic matter and nutrients, consequently depressing DO concentrations. Every water body assessed by the Texas State Water Quality Standards is assigned an aquatic life-use (ALU) category of either minimal, limited, intermediate, high or exceptional. To ensure that water bodies protect these ALU categories, DO criteria are implemented. Classified water bodies are required to meet an average DO criterion measured over 24 hours and a minimum DO criterion (TCEQ, 2015b). Unclassified streams are assigned an ALU based upon the flow-type for the specific segment, which are 30 categorized as perennial, intermittent with perennial pools and intermittent without perennial pools. Specific DO criteria are associated with each unclassified stream type, unless a site specific ALU has been assigned to the unclassified water body. The 24-hour average DO criteria are measured over 24 hours and sampling events occur at various times throughout the year to represent unbiased and seasonally representative data. When 24-hour average DO is not available, grab DO measurements are utilized and include a minimum criterion and screening level criterion (TCEQ, 2015b). Limited 24-hour average DO data is available for Davidson Creek AU 1211A\_02, with sampling events occurring between 2003 and 2019 (Figures 38-40). All segments in the watersheds are assumed to support a subcategory of aquatic life use. The ALU categories and DO screening levels are listed for each water body in **Error! Reference source not found.** and grab samples dissolved oxygen concentrations are plotted in **Error! Reference source not found.**-43. Middle Yegua Creek AU 1212A\_02 has a concern for depressed DO while Davidson Creek AU 1211A\_02 is listed to not support the DO standards and criteria.

## Middle Yegua, Davidson, and Deer Creeks Characterization Report

Table 13. ALU and DO criteria for the Middle Yegua, Davidson, and Deer Creeks watersheds

Segment	Water Body	ALU Category	DO Screening Level Criteria (mg/L)	DO Grab Minimum (mg/L)	24 hr DO Average (mg/L)	24 hr DO Minimum (mg/L)
1212A	Middle Yegua Creek	High	5 (CS) <sup>1</sup>	3	-	-
1211A	Davidson Creek	Intermediate	4	3	4 (NS) <sup>2</sup>	3 (NS) <sup>2</sup>
1242J	Deer Creek	High	5	3	-	-

<sup>1</sup> CS: Concern for Screening Level;

<sup>2</sup> NS: Not Supporting

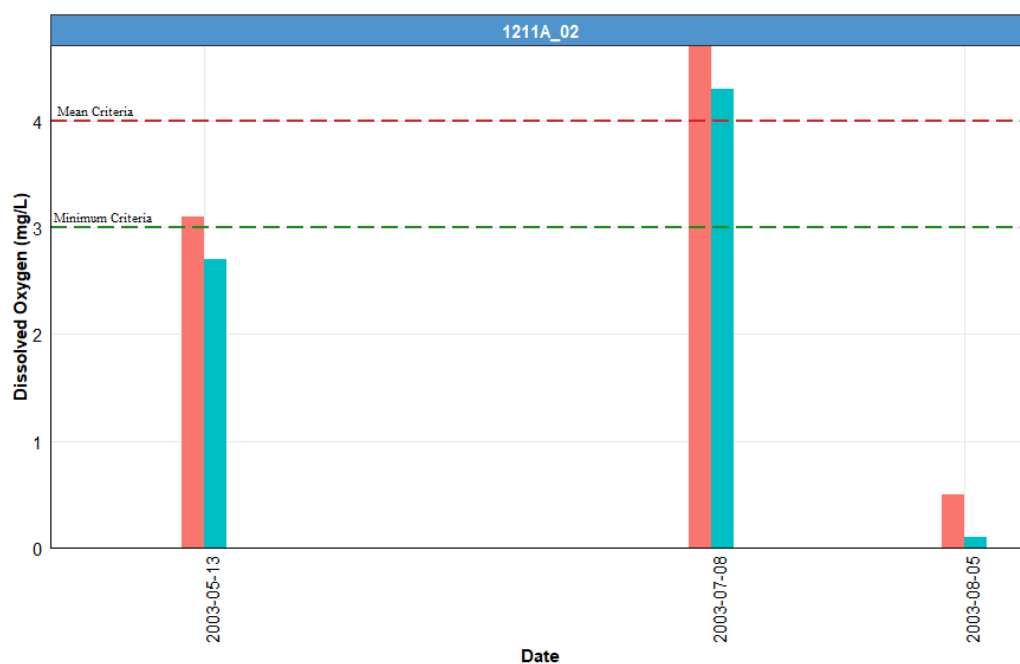


Figure 39. Historical 24-hour dissolved oxygen concentrations for the Davidson Creek watershed station 20388. The orange bar indicates average 24-hour dissolved concentrations and the blue bar indicates minimum 24-hour dissolved oxygen concentrations



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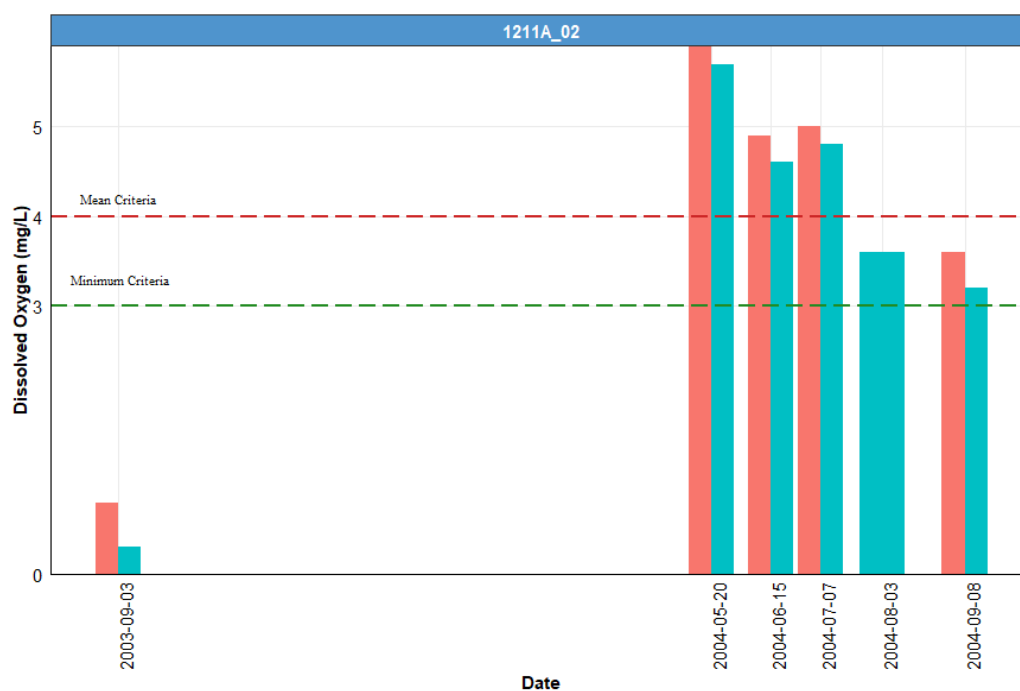


Figure 40. Historical 24-hour dissolved oxygen concentrations for the Davidson Creek watershed station 11729 between 2003 and 2004. The orange bar indicates average 24-hour dissolved concentrations and the blue bar indicates minimum 24-hour dissolved oxygen concentrations

## Middle Yegua, Davidson, and Deer Creeks Characterization Report

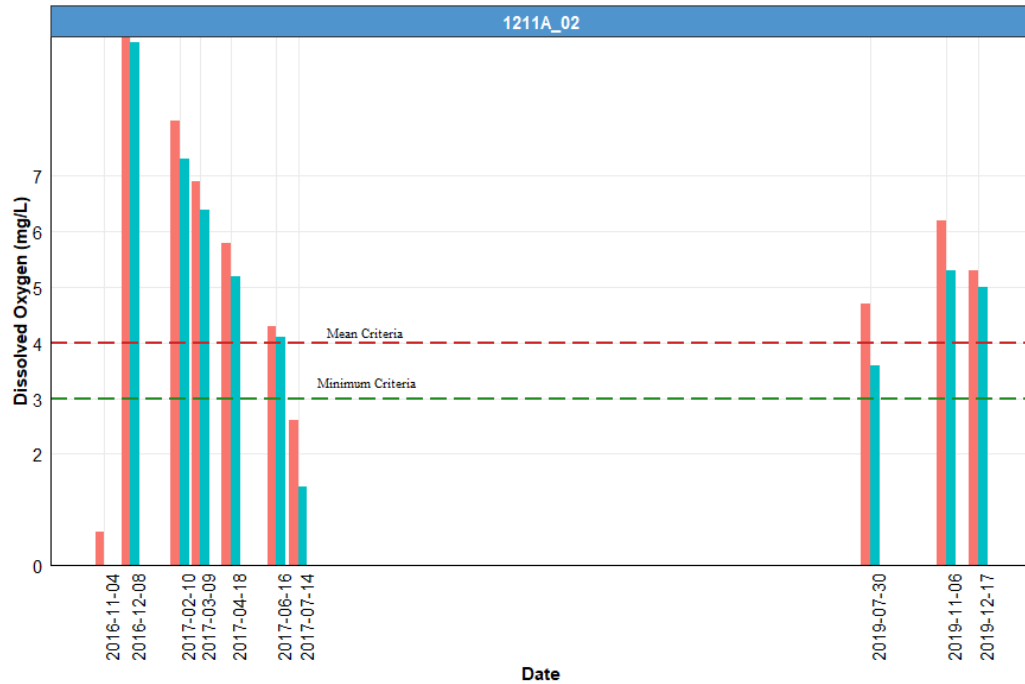


Figure 41. Historical 24-hour dissolved oxygen concentrations for the Davidson Creek watershed station 11729 between 2016 and 2019. The orange bar indicates average 24-hour dissolved concentrations and the blue bar indicates minimum 24-hour dissolved oxygen concentrations

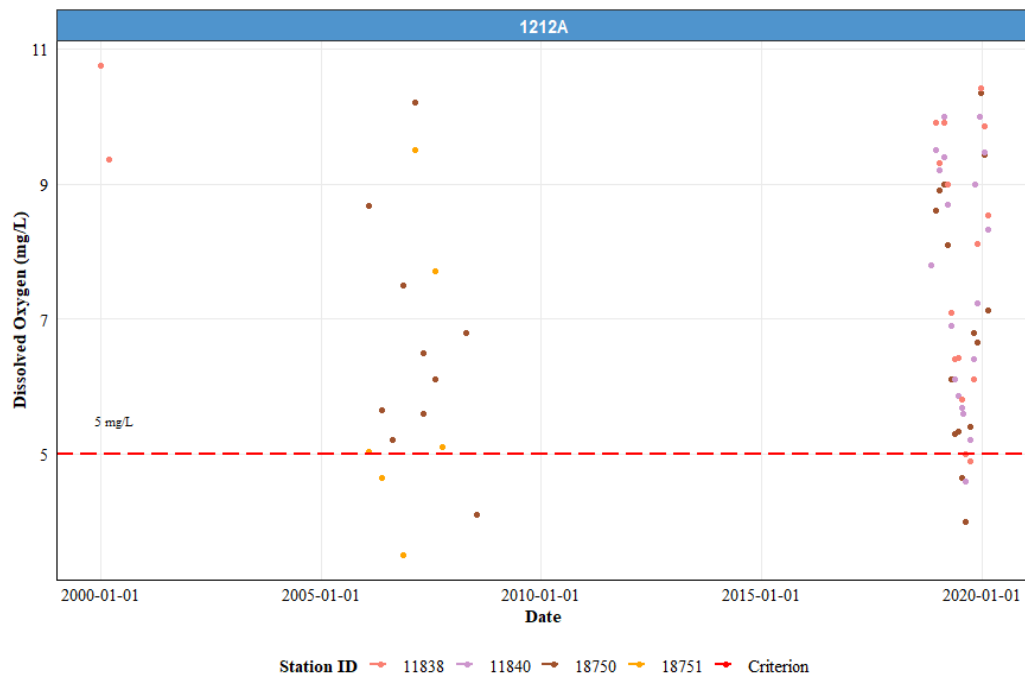


Figure 42. Historical grab sample dissolved oxygen concentrations for the Middle Yegua Creek watershed

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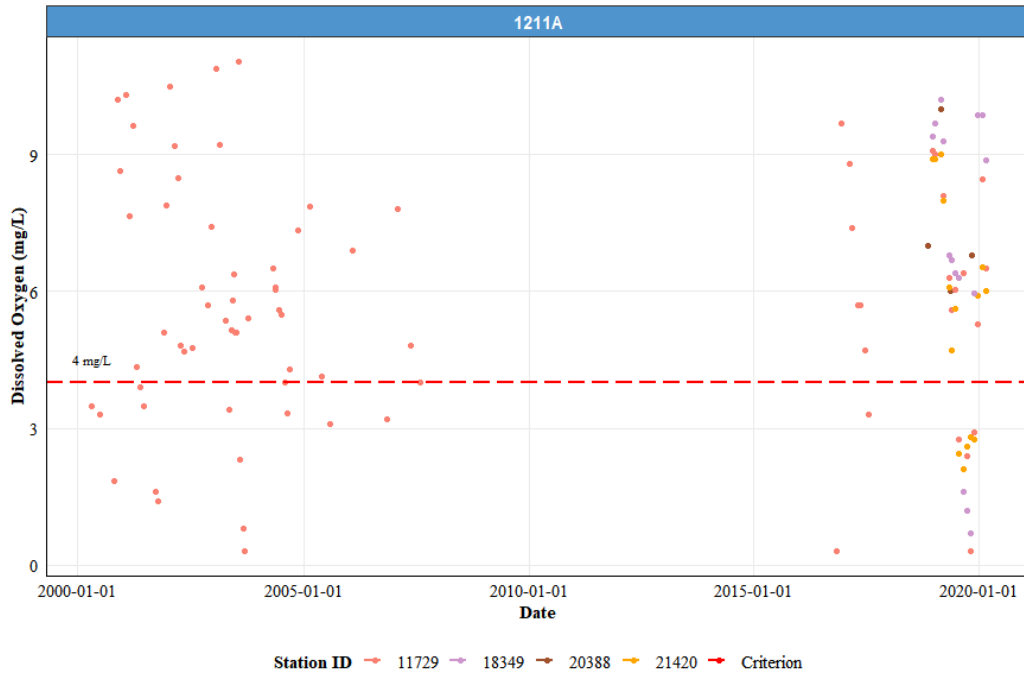


Figure 43. Historical grab sample dissolved oxygen concentrations for the Davidson Creek watershed

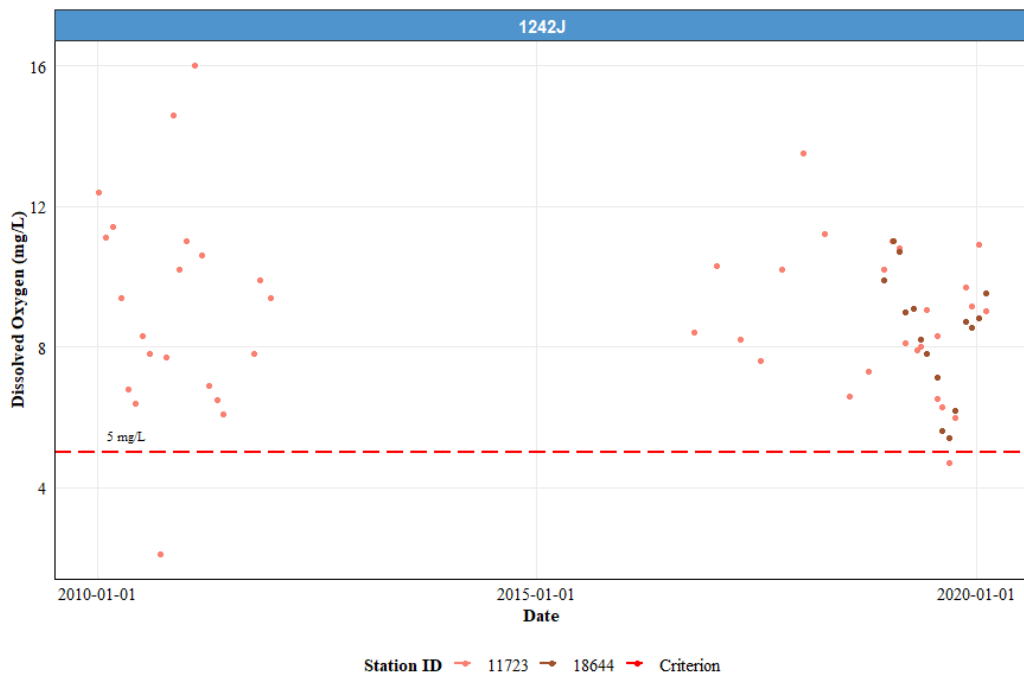


Figure 44. Historical grab sample dissolved oxygen concentrations for the Deer Creek watershed

## Flow

Generally, streamflow (the amount of water flowing in a river/creek at a given time) is dynamic and always changing in response to both natural (e.g. precipitation events) and anthropogenic (e.g. changes in land cover) factors. From a water quality perspective, streamflow is important because it influences the ability of a water body to assimilate pollutants.

There are two United States Geological Survey (USGS) streamflow gages in the watersheds. USGS streamflow gage 08109700 is located at SWQM Station 11840 in Middle Yegua Creek. Instantaneous streamflow information is available at this station dating back to August 1962. A second streamflow gage (08110100) is located at SWQM Station 18349 in the lower portion of the Davidson Creek watershed. This gage has instantaneous streamflow records dating back to October 1962. Instantaneous streamflow data for each gage was used to calculate the monthly aggregated streamflow from January 2009 through December 2019 (**Error! Reference source not found., Error! Reference source not found.**).

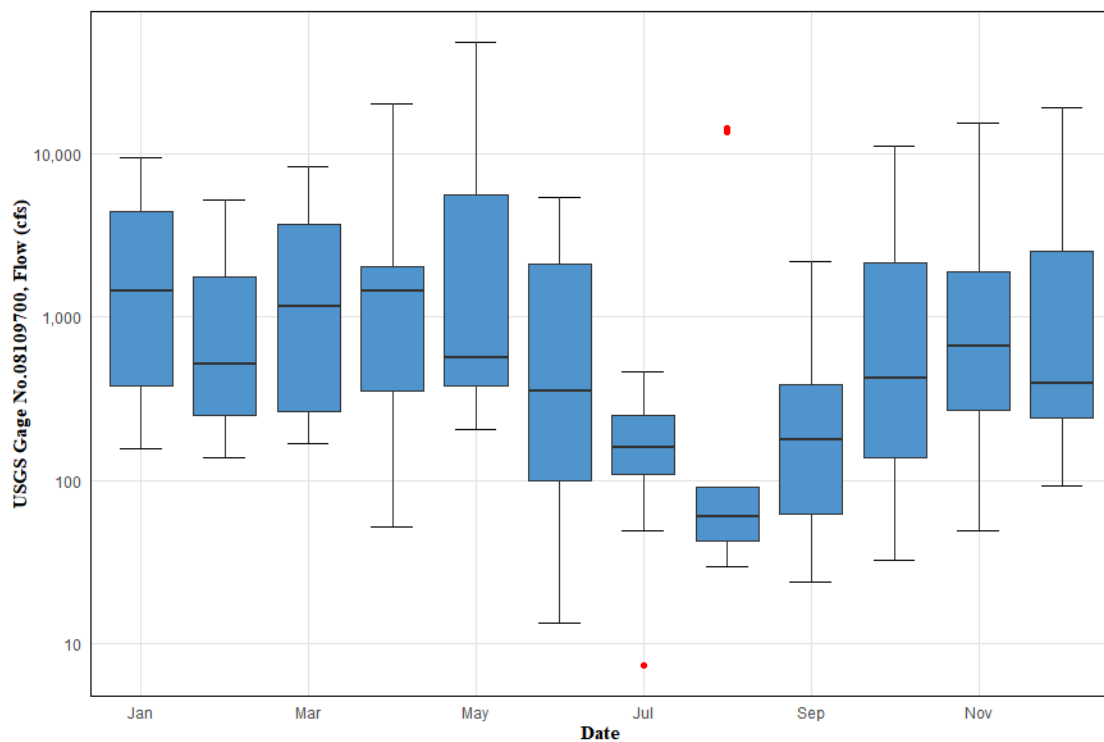


Figure 45. Aggregated monthly streamflow for Middle Yegua Creek from January 2009 through December 2019

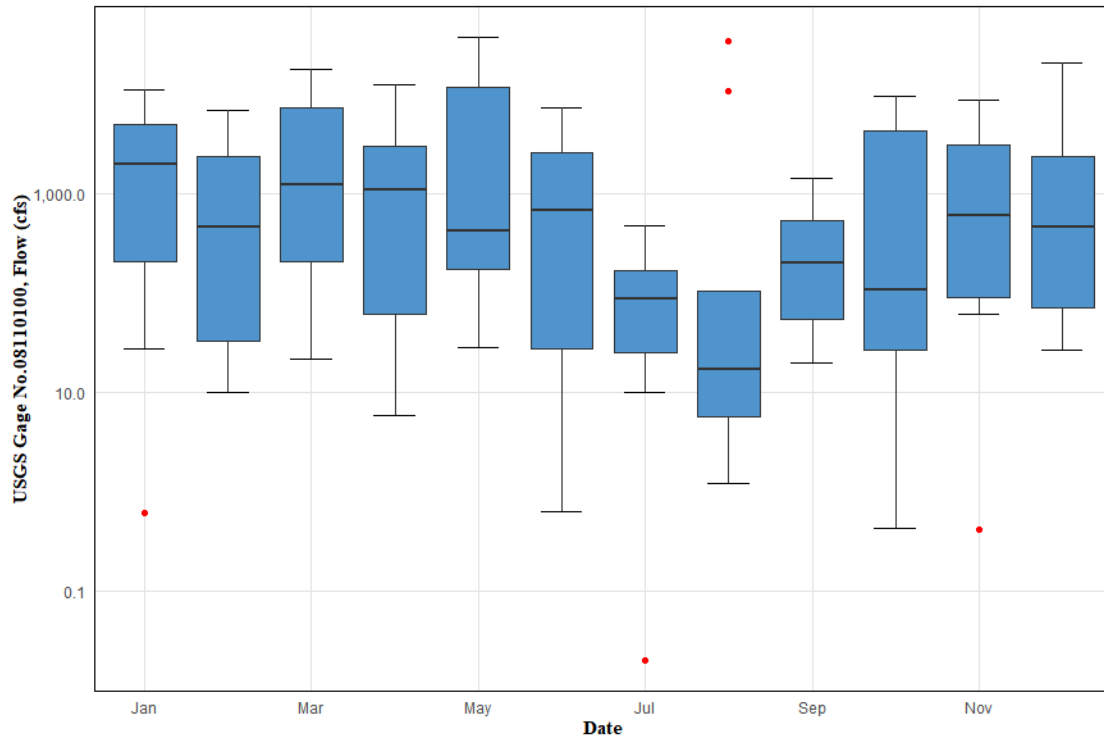


Figure 46. Aggregated monthly streamflow for Davidson Creek from January 2009 through December 2019

Hydrologic data in the form of daily streamflow records were unavailable in the Deer Creek watershed. However, streamflow records are available in a nearby watershed (Middle Bosque River) with similar characteristics (**Error! Reference source not found.**). There is one USGS streamflow gage in the Middle Bosque River watershed (08095300) which has instantaneous streamflow records dating back to October 2007. This gage was used to develop mean daily streamflow for Deer Creek AU 1242J\_01 from January 2009 through December 2019 using the Drainage-Area Ratio Method (DAR) described in the Pollutant Source Assessment section of the document (**Error! Reference source not found.**).



## Middle Yegua, Davidson, and Deer Creeks Characterization Report

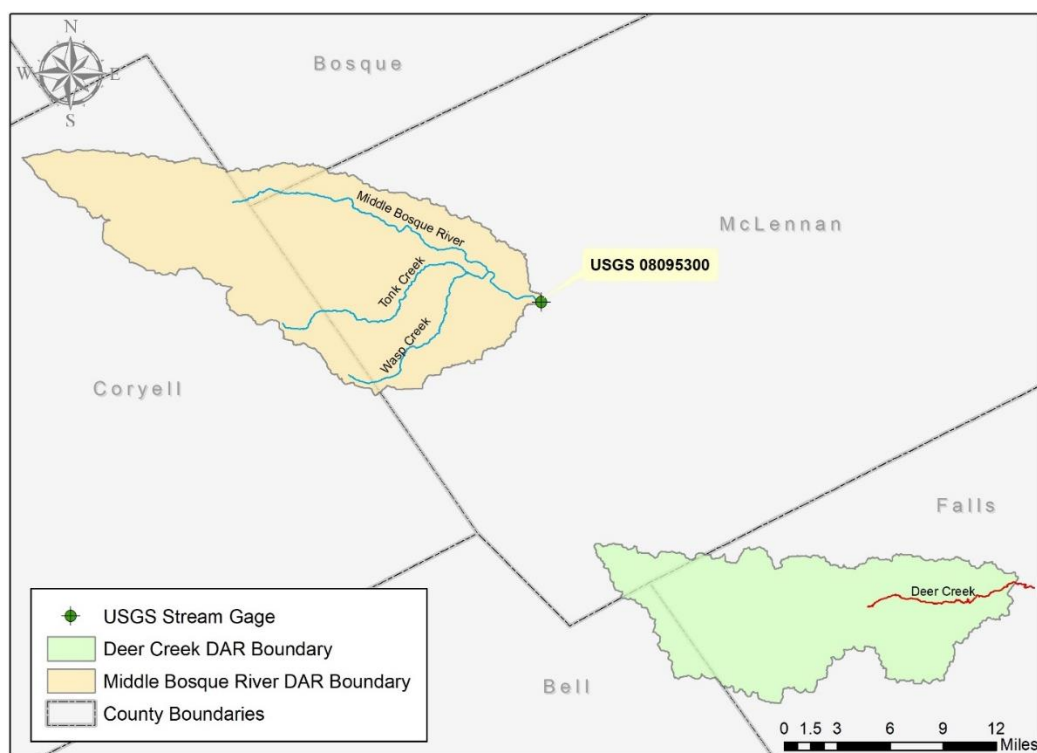


Figure 47. USGS streamflow gage and watershed used in streamflow development for Deer Creek

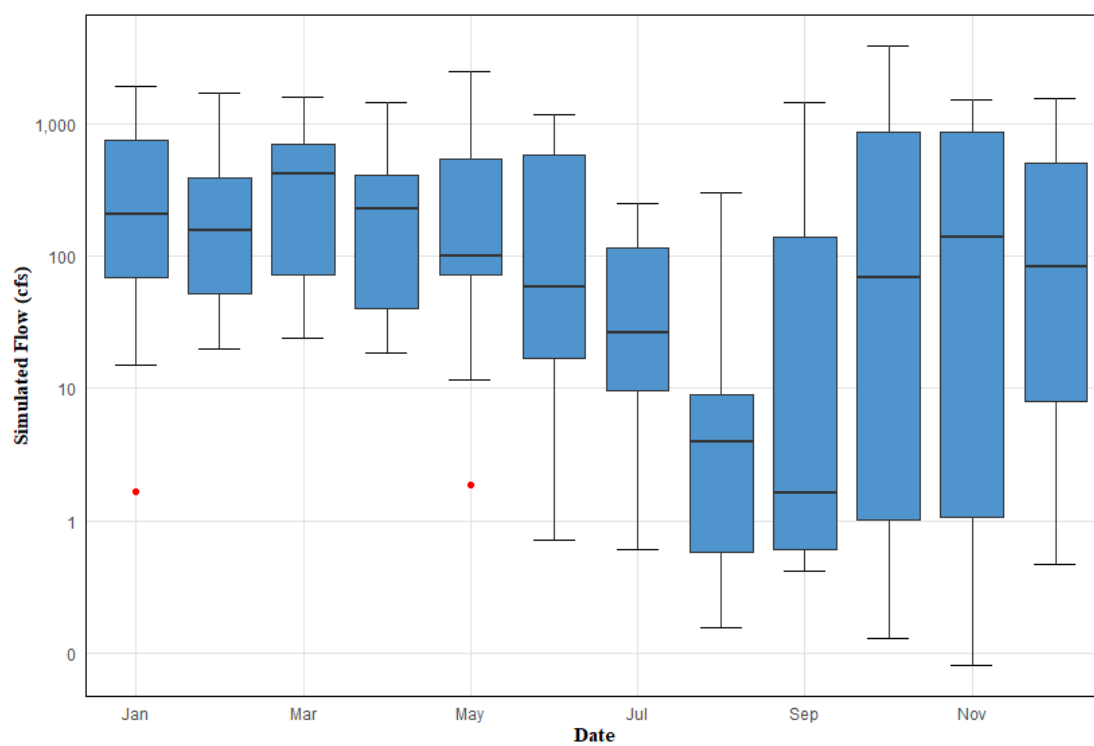


Figure 48. Aggregated monthly streamflow for Deer Creek from January 2009 through December 2019

## Potential Sources of Water Quality Issues

### Domestic Livestock

Domestic livestock farms, particularly cattle, are common throughout the rural watersheds. Runoff from rain events can transport fecal matter and bacteria from pastures and rangeland into nearby creeks and streams. Livestock with direct access to streams can also wade and defecate directly into water bodies resulting in direct contributions of bacteria to the water. Streamside riparian buffers, fencing, and grazing practices that reduce the time livestock spend near streams can reduce livestock impacts on water quality.

Because watershed-level livestock numbers are not available, populations were estimated using the USDA National Agricultural Statistics Services' (NASS) and USGS NLCD datasets. Specifically, the horse, goat, sheep, poultry, and pig/hog populations for each county was obtained using the USDA NASS 2017 dataset. The county-level data were multiplied by a ratio based on the acres of grazeable land, identified with USGS NLCD data, divided by the total number of acres in the county. Then, the proportion of grazeable acres in the watersheds within each county was used to estimate the number of livestock from each county that occur in the watersheds (**Error! Reference source not found.**). Grazeable land for cattle is defined as aggregate of pasture/hay, shrub/scrub, forest, and herbaceous LULC classifications. A stocking rate of 10 ac/animal unit was used for the forest, shrub/scrub, and herbaceous land uses to determine the number of cattle in each watershed. A stocking rate of 3 ac/animal unit was used for the hay/pastureland use.

Table 14. Estimated grazing livestock populations in the watersheds

Segment	Water Body	Cattle	Horses	Goats/Sheep	Pigs/Hogs	Poultry
1212A	Middle Yegua Creek	54,389	1,149	2,072	663	30,336
1211A	Davidson Creek	27,103	456	709	251	46,804
1242J	Deer Creek	6,911	247	683	37	623

### Wildlife and Feral Hogs

Bacteria are common inhabitants of the intestines of all warm-blooded animals, including wildlife such as mammals and birds. Wildlife are naturally attracted to riparian corridors of streams and rivers. With direct access to the stream channel, the direct deposition of wildlife waste can be a concentrated source of bacteria to a water body. Fecal bacteria from wildlife are also deposited onto land surfaces, where it may be washed into nearby streams by rainfall runoff. While several bird and mammal species are likely to contribute bacteria loads in area waterways, feral hogs and White-tailed deer are the only species with reasonable density and population estimates for significant bacteria load contribution.

A common estimate frequently used in the State of Texas is a density of one hog per 33.3 acres (Wagner and Moench, 2009). Appropriate LULC classes for feral hogs in the watersheds include

## Middle Yegua, Davidson, and Deer Creeks Characterization Report

forest, wetland, shrub/scrub, herbaceous, pasture/hay, and cultivated crops. White-tailed deer estimates for the watersheds are not available, therefore estimates from the Texas Parks and Wildlife (TPWD) resource management unit (RMU) 19 for Middle Yegua Creek and Davidson Creek watersheds and RMU CTP for Deer Creek were utilized. The estimated deer population for RMU 19 from 2005-2015 is 41.7 acres per deer and the estimated deer population for RMU CTP from 2005-2015 is approximately 26.7 acres per deer. The estimates for feral hogs and White-tailed deer for each watershed can be found in **Error! Reference source not found.**

Table 15. Estimated feral hog and White-tailed deer populations in the watersheds

Segment	Water Body	Feral Hogs	Deer
1212A	Middle Yegua Creek	8,053	6,767
1211A	Davidson Creek	3,932	3,348
1242J	Deer Creek	2,085	2,753

### Domestic Pets

Fecal matter from pets can contribute to bacteria loads in the watersheds when not picked up and disposed of properly. In rural areas, such as the Middle Yegua Creek, Davidson Creek, and Deer Creek watersheds, pets often spend most their time roaming around outdoors, making proper waste disposal impractical. The American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) estimates there are approximately 0.614 dogs and 0.457 cats/ home across the United States (AVMA, 2018). The estimated number of domestic pets in the watersheds can be calculated by multiplying these ratios with the number of households in each watershed (**Error! Reference source not found.**).

Table 16. Estimated dog and cat populations in the watersheds

Segment	Water Body	Estimated Number of Households	Estimated Number of Dogs	Estimated Number of Cats
1212A	Middle Yegua Creek	3,675	2,256	1,679
1211A	Davidson Creek	3,965	2,435	1,812
1242J	Deer Creek	1,633	1,003	746

### On-Site Sewage Facilities

Given the rural nature of the watersheds, many homes are not connected to centralized sewage treatment facilities and therefore use OSSFs. Typical OSSF designs include either (1) anaerobic systems composed of septic tank(s) and an associated drainage or distribution field, or (2) aerobic systems with aerated holding tanks and typically an above ground sprinkler system to distribute the effluent. Failing or undersized OSSFs will contribute direct bacteria loads as the effluent from the systems move through or over the ground into adjacent water bodies.

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Based on visually validated county 911 data and areas of existing wastewater service, estimations of the number of OSSFs that may occur in each watershed were determined (**Error! Reference source not found.**). Given the extensive occurrence of “Very Limited” soils for OSSF use (**Error! Reference source not found.**, **Error! Reference source not found.**, **Error! Reference source not found.**), the vast majority of these systems occur in areas with expected failure rates of at least 15% (Reed, Stowe & Yanke, 2001). **Error! Reference source not found.** through **Error! Reference source not found.** depict expected distributions of all OSSFs in the watersheds but does not identify failing OSSFs.

Although most well-maintained OSSFs are likely to function properly, failing OSSFs can leak or discharge untreated waste onto distribution fields. Runoff generated during storm events can transport this waste overland and into nearby water bodies. Untreated OSSF effluent can contribute to levels of indicator bacteria, dissolved oxygen, nutrients and other water quality parameters.

Table 17. Number of estimated OSSFs in the watersheds

Segment	Water Body	Estimated OSSFs
1212A	Middle Yegua Creek	3,953
1211A	Davidson Creek	2,408
1242J	Deer Creek	1,685

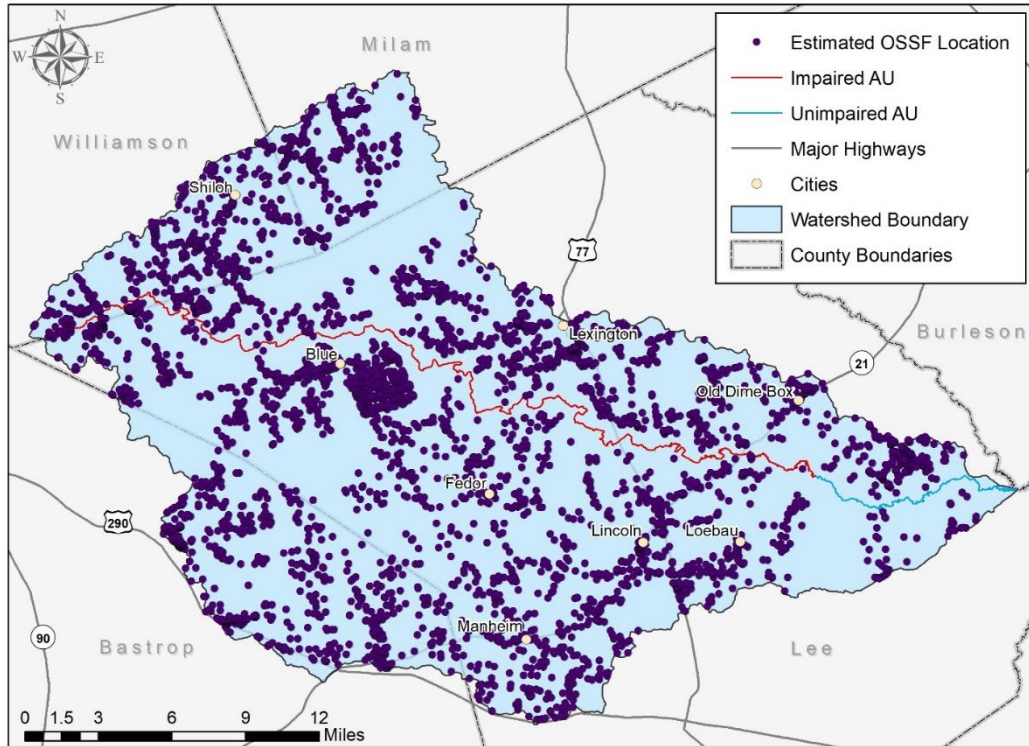


Figure 49. Estimated OSSF locations in the Middle Yegua Creek watershed

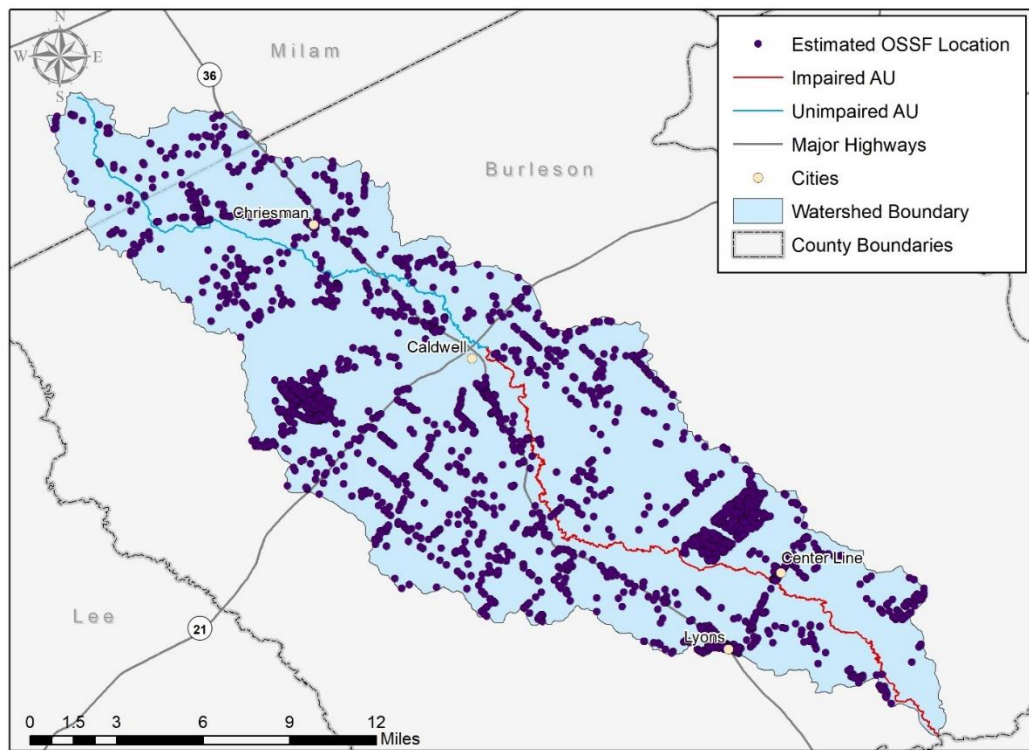


Figure 50. Estimated OSSF locations in the Davidson Creek watershed



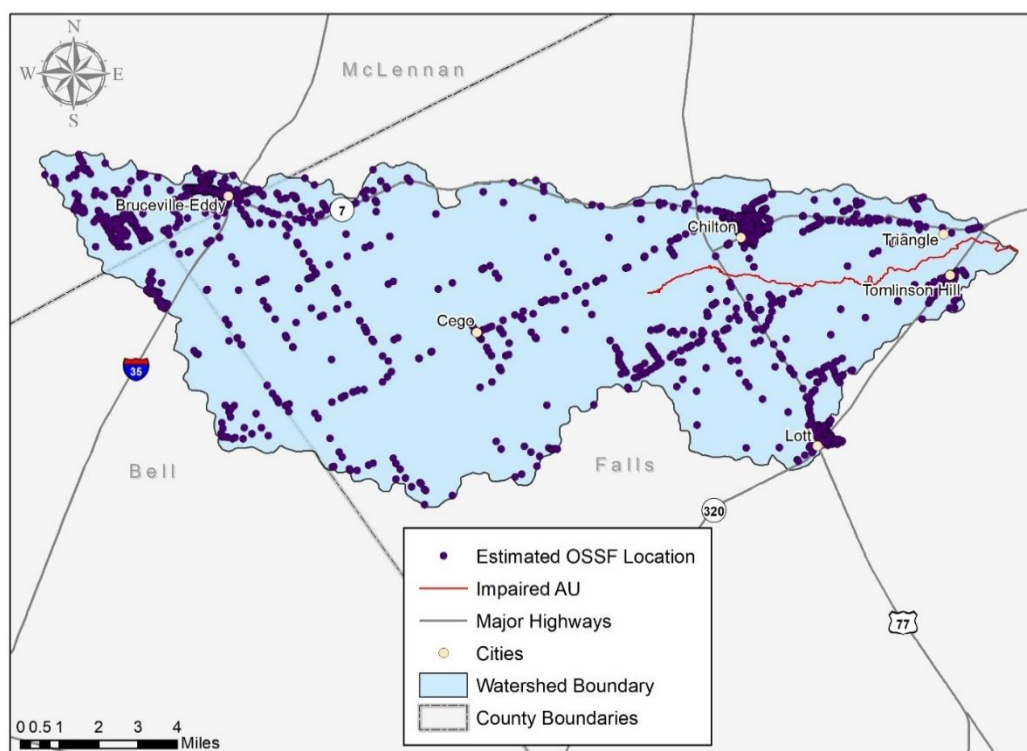


Figure 51. Estimated OSSF locations in the Deer Creek watershed

## Permitted Discharges

Permitted discharges are sources regulated by permit under the Texas Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (TPDES) and the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) programs. Examples of permitted discharges include WWTF discharges, industrial or construction site stormwater discharges, and discharges from municipal separate storm sewer systems (MS4) of regulated cities or agencies. WWTFs treat municipal wastewater before discharging the treated effluent into a water body. WWTFs are required to test and report the levels of indicator bacteria and nutrients as a condition of their discharge permit. Plants that exceed their permitted levels may require infrastructure or process improvements to meet the permitted discharge requirements.

As of January 2020, 5 facilities in the Middle Yegua Creek, Davidson Creek, and Deer Creek watersheds treat domestic wastewater; one is in the Middle Yegua watershed, two are in the Davidson Creek watershed, and two are in the Deer Creek watershed (**Error! Reference source not found.; Error! Reference source not found., Error! Reference source not found., Error! Reference source not found.**). The City of Caldwell WWTF discharges directly into the impaired Davidson Creek segment and the Chilton Water Supply and Sewer Service WWTF discharges directly into the impaired Deer Creek segment. Discharge for all five facilities is measured in millions of gallons per day (MGD). All of the WWTF's, except the Burleson County WWTF, had a history of non-compliance issues during the 12-quarter period (3 years) October 1, 2016 through September 30, 2019 (USEPA, 2019). During this period, the two facilities reported exceedances in bacteria concentration discharge limits, the City of Lexington WWTF and the Chilton Water Supply and Sewer Service WWTF. None of the bacteria effluent violations were reported as "significant" non-compliance effluent violations. Compliance status is based on the period of record available through

## Middle Yegua, Davidson, and Deer Creeks Characterization Report

the EPA's Enforcement and Compliance History Online (ECHO) database, which shows history of facility compliance with NPDES and TPDES permit requirements.

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Table 18. Permitted wastewater facilities in the watersheds

Facility Name (TPDES Permit No.)	Receiving Stream	Flow (MGD)		Bacteria (MPN/100 mL)		Number of Quarters in Violation for Exceedance from 10/2016-9/2019
		Final Permitted	Reported (3-year avg.)	Permitted (Daily Average)	Reported (3-year average)	
City of Lexington WWTF (WQ0010016-001)	Shaw Branch to Middle Yegua Creek (1212A)	0.200	0.0726	126 <sup>1</sup>	289	<b>12</b> (3 DO monthly min., 9 BOD daily avg., 1 BOD single grab, 11 pH max., 1 pH min., 3 TSS daily avg., 1 Flow daily avg., 8 <i>E. coli</i> daily avg., 8 <i>E. coli</i> single grab)
City of Caldwell WWTF (WQ0015306-001)	Davidson Creek (1211A)	0.711	0.4431	126 <sup>1</sup>	3.75	<b>4</b> (1 Ammonia daily avg., 1 Ammonia daily max., 4 BOD daily avg.)
Burleson County WWTF (WQ0010813-002)	Berry Creek to Davidson Creek (1211A)	0.300	N/A <sup>2</sup>	126 <sup>1</sup>	N/A <sup>2</sup>	<b>0</b>
Chilton Water Supply & Sewer Service WWTF (WQ0010811-001)	Deer Creek (1242J)	0.105	0.0429	126 <sup>1</sup>	25.5	<b>6</b> (3 TSS daily avg., 3 Ammonia daily avg., 2 Ammonia single grab, 1 <i>E. coli</i> daily avg., 1 <i>E. coli</i> single grab)
City of Lott WWTF (WQ0010017-001)	Bone Branch to Deer Creek (1242J)	0.080	0.0410	126 <sup>1</sup>	34.6	<b>4</b> (2 DO monthly min., 1 BOD daily avg., 1 pH max., 1 Flow daily avg.)

<sup>1</sup> MPN/100 mL *E. coli*

<sup>2</sup> Data not available

## Middle Yegua, Davidson, and Deer Creeks Characterization Report

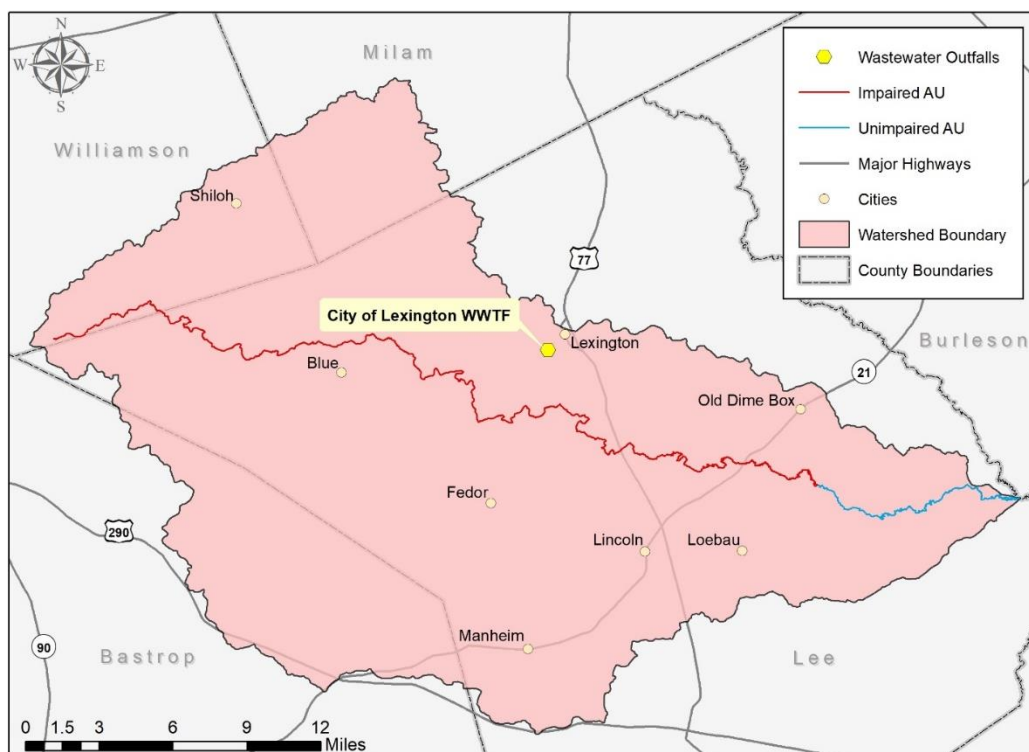


Figure 52. Active permitted wastewater discharge outfall locations for the Middle Yegua Creek watershed

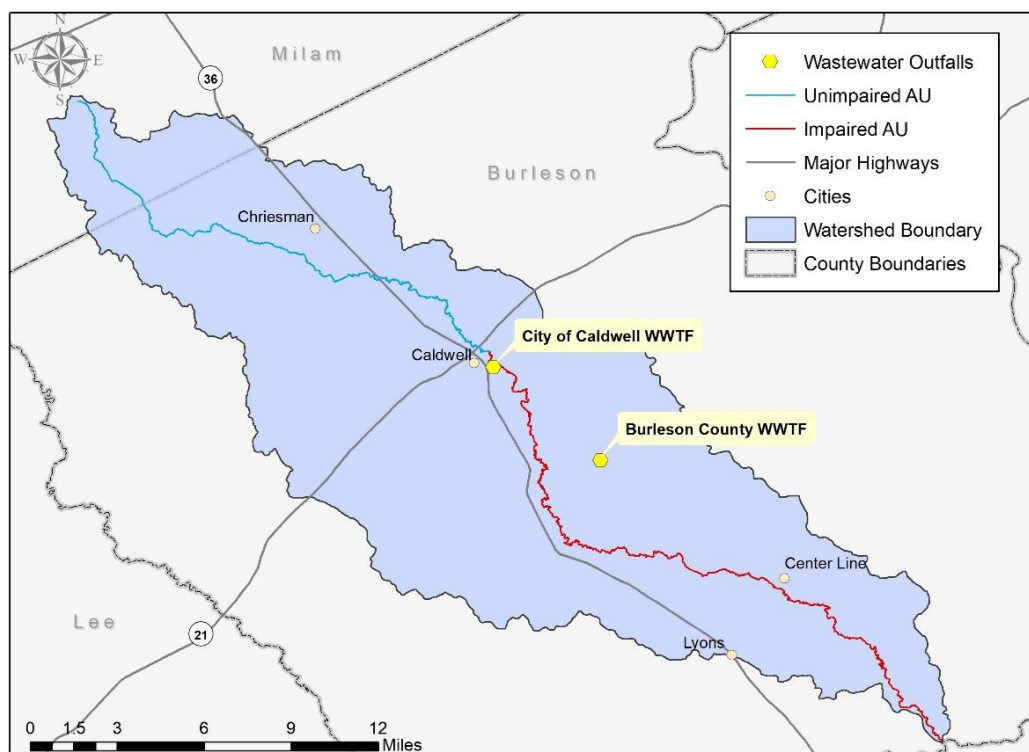


Figure 53. Active permitted wastewater discharge outfall locations for the Davidson Creek watershed

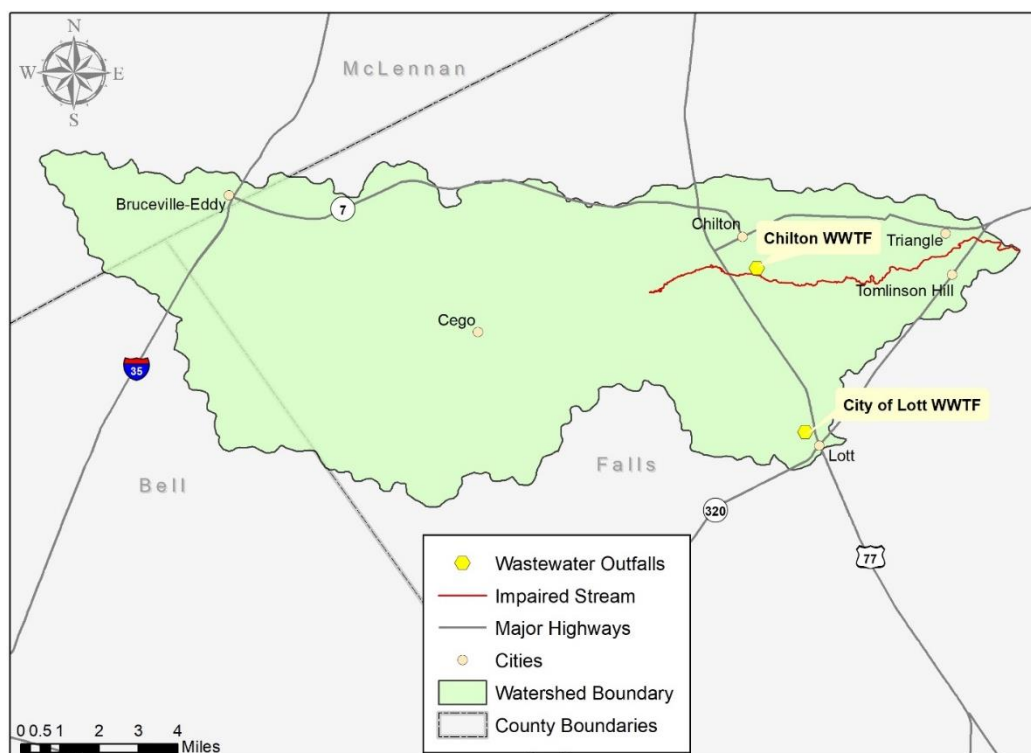


Figure 54. Active permitted wastewater discharge outfall locations for the Deer Creek watershed

Although stormwater is generally considered a nonpoint source, stormwater is subject to regulation if it originates from a regulated MS4 or is associated with industrial and/or construction activities. MS4 permits refer to the permitting of municipal stormwater systems that are separate from sanitary sewer systems. Systems are broken down into “large” Phase I and “small” Phase II permits based on population. Further details on MS4 permitting requirements are available from TCEQ: [www.tceq.texas.gov/permitting/stormwater/ms4](http://www.tceq.texas.gov/permitting/stormwater/ms4). TPDES General Permits cover stormwater discharges from Phase II urbanized areas, industrial facilities and construction sites over one acre. These urban and industrial stormwater sources may contain elevated levels of bacteria or nutrients as they wash accumulated materials from roads, parking lots, buildings, parks, and other developed areas. Potential pollutants can be managed from these sites through stormwater best management practices, including structures such as detention ponds, riparian buffers, pervious pavement, and low impact design.

A review of active stormwater general permits coverage in the Middle Yegua Creek watershed, as of February 2020, found two active industrial facilities and three active construction sites, and one active concrete production facility. A review of the active stormwater general permits coverage in the Davidson Creek watershed, as of February 2020, found six active industrial facilities, one active construction site, and one active concrete production facility. A review of the active stormwater general permits coverage in the Deer Creek watershed, as of February 2020, found only two active construction sites. There are no MS4s or petroleum bulk stations and terminals facilities in any of the watersheds. Based on the 2016 NLCD, only 17 square miles out of the 440 square mile Middle Yegua Creek watershed, 12 square miles out of the 218 square mile Davidson Creek watershed, and 6 square miles out of the 115 square mile Deer Creek watershed are urbanized or developed. Therefore, contributions to surface water impairments from regulated stormwater and urbanized



development are assumed to be small based on the relatively low amount of stormwater permits and developed land.

### Unauthorized Discharges

SSOs are unauthorized discharges that must be addressed by the responsible party, either the TPDES permittee or the owner of the collection system that is connected to a permitted system. SSOs in dry weather most often result from blockages in the sewer collection pipes caused by tree roots, grease and other debris. Inflow and infiltration (I&I) are typical causes of SSOs under conditions of high flow in the WWTF system. Blockages in the line may exacerbate the I&I problem. Other causes, such as a collapsed sewer line, may occur under any condition. The TCEQ Region 9 and 11 Offices maintain a database of SSO data reported by municipalities. These SSO data typically contain estimates of the total gallons spilled, responsible entity, and a general location of the spill. The reports of SSO events that occurred within the watersheds of Middle Yegua Creek, Davidson Creek, and Deer Creek between January 2015 and December 2019 are shown in **Error! Reference source not found.** Two separate incidences were reported for two different facilities. The reported data indicate that the SSOs occurred year-round and that both durations were unknown. Overflow volumes for both incidences were one gallon.

Table 19. SSO events since 2015 for the Middle Yegua Creek, Davidson Creek, and Deer Creek watersheds

Facility	Date	Gallons	Cause
City of Caldwell WWTF	03/09/2015	1	Unknown
City of Lexington WWTF	05/15/2015	1	I&I

### Water Quality Summary

The Middle Yegua Creek, Davidson Creek, and Deer Creek watersheds are predominantly rural, characterized by vital agricultural communities. Therefore, significant portions of the watersheds have been utilized for cropland, pasture or grazing. The population of the watersheds are projected to increase by small proportions over the next 50 years.

The primary water quality concern is bacteria impairments in the watersheds. Potential contributors to the bacteria impairments likely include some combination of (1) managed livestock/cattle; (2) unmanaged wildlife/feral hogs; (3) failing OSSFs; (4) stormwater runoff from urban areas and impervious surfaces (including contributions from household pets); and (5) permitted discharges and SSOs (**Error! Reference source not found.**).

## Middle Yegua, Davidson, and Deer Creeks Characterization Report

Table 20. Summary of potential bacteria sources contributing to the impairments in the watersheds

Pollutant Source	Pollutant Type	Potential Cause	Potential Impact
Livestock	Bacteria	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Runoff from pastures</li> <li>-Overgrazing</li> <li>-Manure transport to streams</li> <li>-Direct deposition into streams</li> </ul>	Fecal material and bacteria directly deposited into stream or through runoff
Wildlife	Bacteria	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Manure transport to streams</li> <li>-Direct deposition into streams</li> <li>-Riparian degradation</li> </ul>	Fecal material and bacteria directly deposited into stream or through runoff
OSSFs	Bacteria	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-System failure</li> <li>-Improper design</li> </ul>	Insufficiently or untreated water runoff to streams
Urban stormwater and domestic pets	Bacteria	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Increased runoff from impervious surface</li> <li>-Improper disposal of pet waste</li> </ul>	Increased velocity and volume of stormwater quickly transport bacteria laden water to streams
Permitted dischargers/SSOs	Bacteria	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Inflow and infiltration</li> <li>Overloaded or aging infrastructure</li> </ul>	Untreated waste enters water body

## Pollutant Source Assessment

### Introduction

Water quality sampling, described in the previous section, established that the primary water quality concern in the Middle Yegua Creek, Davidson Creek, and Deer Creek watersheds is excessive fecal indicator bacteria. The current water quality standard established by TCEQ for primary contact recreation is 126 MPN/100mL for *E. coli*. The *2014 Texas Integrated Report* (TCEQ, 2015a) lists Davidson Creek as impaired with a geometric mean of 2,212 MPN/100 mL *E. coli*. The *2016 Texas Integrated Report* (TCEQ, 2019a) lists Middle Yegua Creek as impaired with a geometric mean of 749 MPN/100 mL *E. coli* and Deer Creek as impaired with a geometric mean of 459 MPN/100 mL *E. coli*. The *2016 Texas Integrated Report* did not have an *E. coli* geometric mean listed for Davidson Creek but it is still on the 303(d) list.

In order to calculate the reductions needed to meet primary contact recreation standards, the bacteria load capacity of Middle Yegua Creek, Davidson Creek, and Deer Creek were calculated. The current bacterial load for all three creeks were also calculated using water quality samples and the Load Duration Curve (LDC) method. By taking the difference between the load capacity and the current load, this characterization estimates the needed reductions to meet water quality standards.

Furthermore, this section estimates the relative load contributions from different potential fecal bacteria sources. A Geographic Information Systems (GIS) analysis, which includes the best available data, provided relative load contribution estimates. By estimating the relative potential contribution of different fecal bacteria sources across the watersheds, areas can be prioritized as to when and where future potential management measures should occur.

### Source and Load Determination

#### Load Duration Curves

LDCs are a widely accepted methodology used to characterize water quality data across different flow conditions in a watershed. An LDC provides a visual display of streamflow, load capacity and water quality exceedance. An LDC is first developed by constructing a flow duration curve (FDC) using historical streamflow data. The historical flow measurements used to develop the FDCs for Middle Yegua Creek and Davidson Creek came from daily streamflow records at USGS gages within the watersheds. The gage used for the Middle Yegua Creek FDC was USGS stream gage 08109700 and the gage used for the Davidson Creek watershed was USGS stream gage 08110100. As previously mentioned there was no USGS stream gage in the Deer Creek watershed. An alternative method to developing the FDC for this watershed is explained further in this section.

An FDC is a summary of the hydrology of the stream, indicating the percentage of time that a given flow is exceeded. An FDC is constructed by ranking flow measurements from highest to lowest and determining the frequency of different flow measurements at the sampling location. Exceedance values along the x-axis represent the percent of days that flow was at or above the associated flow value on the y-axis. Exceedance values near 100 percent occur during low flow or drought conditions while values approaching 0 percent occur during periods of high flow or flood conditions.

The red lines on the following LDCs are the allowable load at the water quality criterion for *E. coli* (geometric mean of 126 MPN/100 mL). These lines were created by multiplying the stream flow for each gage in cfs by the geometric mean of 126 MPN/100 mL for *E. coli* and by a conversion factor ( $2.44658 \times 10^7$ ), which gives you a loading unit of MPN/day. The grey lines (allowable load at single sample criterion) were developed similar to the red lines, except instead of multiplying streamflow by 126 MPN/100 mL, the streamflow was multiplied by 399 MPN/100 mL. The exceedance percentages, which are identical to the value for streamflow data points, were then plotted against the geometric mean criterion for *E. coli*. The resulting curves plot each bacteria load value (y-axis) against its exceedance value (x-axis). Exceedance values along the x-axis represent the percent of days that the bacteria load was at or above the allowable load on the y-axis.

For all LDCs, historical bacteria data were superimposed on the allowable bacteria LDCs. Each historical *E. coli* measurement was associated with the streamflow on the day of measurement and converted to a bacteria load. The associated streamflow for each bacteria loading was compared to the FDC data to determine its value for "percent days flow exceeded," which becomes the "percent of days load exceeded" value for purposes of plotting the *E. coli* loading. Each load was then plotted on the LDCs at their percent exceedance. This process was repeated for each *E. coli* measurement. Points above the LDCs represent exceedances of the bacteria criterion and its associated allowable loadings.

The flow exceedance frequency can be subdivided into hydrologic condition classes to facilitate the diagnostic and analytical uses of the FDC and LDC. For this characterization, three flow regimes were identified. These three intervals along the x-axis of the LDCs are (1) 0-25 percent (high flows); (2) 25-75 percent (mid-range conditions); and (3) 75-100 percent (lowest flows).

In total, four LDCs were produced for the three watersheds. For Middle Yegua Creek, one LDC included SWQM stations 18750 and 11840 (**Error! Reference source not found.**). This LDC indicates the *E. coli* loadings exceed allowable loads across all flow conditions except Low Flows. A second LDC was created for SWQM station 11838 in Middle Yegua Creek because it is located in a different AU (**Error! Reference source not found.**). Although this AU is not currently impaired, a number of samples taken exceed the 126 MPN/100 mL criterion. The LDC also indicates that exceedances are occurring generally near or below the loading criteria at all flow conditions. It is important to note that with only 14 data points, this LDC does not technically reach the threshold of data quantity to be considered valid. The third LDC was developed for Davidson Creek SWQM stations 11729, 18349, and 21420 (**Error! Reference source not found.**). The Davidson Creek LDC indicates loads exceeding capacity under all flow conditions with nearly equal exceedances occurring at higher and lower flow conditions. While elevated loadings under high flows are indicative of non-point sources (NPS) of indicator bacteria due to presumed greater amounts of runoff, exceedances during lower flow conditions are generally more indicative of point sources or direct fecal deposition to streams from wildlife or domestic livestock.

The final LDC was created for Deer Creek SWQM stations 11723 and 18644 (**Error! Reference source not found.**). With no USGS stream gages in the Deer Creek watershed, the previously mentioned DAR method (Asquith et al., 2006) was used to create a simulated naturalized streamflow for the watershed over a 10-year period. This method is used to equate the ratio of streamflow of an unknown stream location to that of a nearby drainage area with sufficient data. This method was reviewed jointly by the USGS and TCEQ using 7.8 million values of daily streamflow data from 712 USGS streamflow gauges in Texas and was found to be a sufficient method in interpolating

streamflow measurements. Further information regarding the DAR method used to develop the LDC for the Deer Creek watershed can be found in Appendix A.

For the Deer Creek DAR, USGS gauge 08095300 on the Middle Bosque River was chosen. The Middle Bosque River watershed was ideal, as it is near the Deer Creek watershed, and is comparable in size, land use and land cover. The dataset for the Middle Bosque River included ten years' worth of daily streamflow records, dating back to January 2009. Most of the elevated loadings occurred during higher flow conditions while lower flow conditions loadings were typically below the exceedance line. This is indicative of loadings associated with NPS pollution or from bacteria present within stream sediments that are resuspended under increased flow.

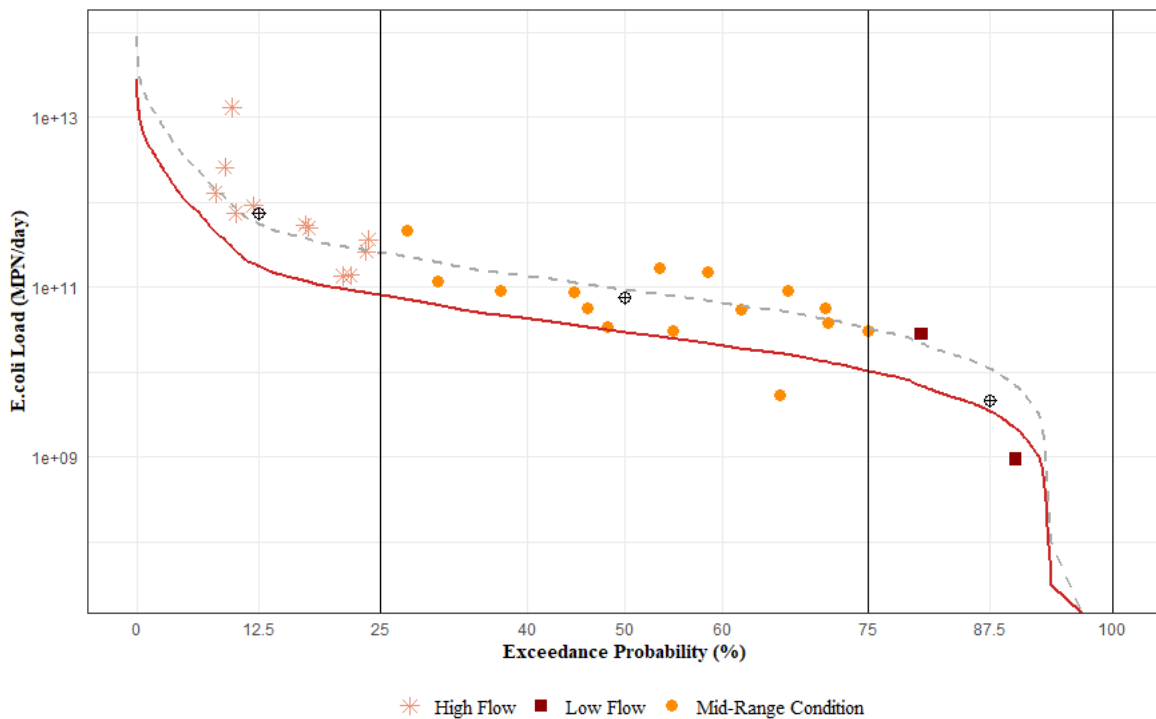


Figure 55. Load duration curve for Middle Yegua Creek SWQM stations 18750 and 11840. The solid red line indicates the allowable load at geomean criterion (126 MPN/100mL) and the gray dashed line is allowable load at single sample criterion (399 MPN/100mL). The black circles indicate the existing geomean load in each flow regime (MPN/day)



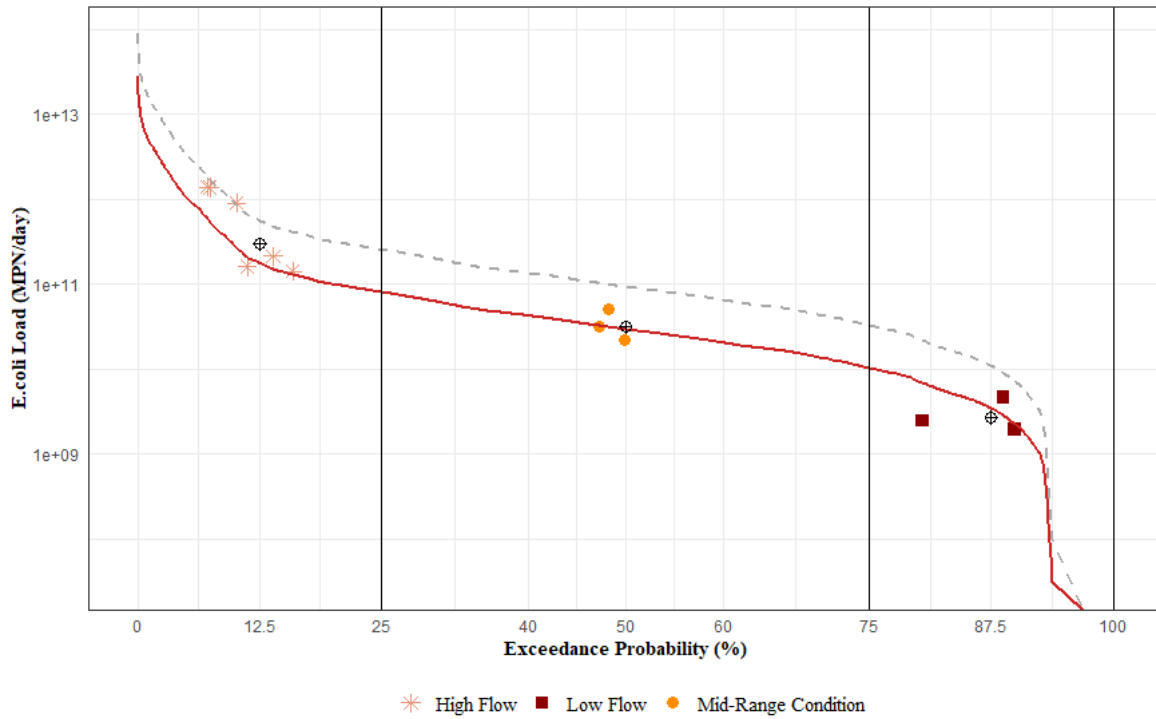


Figure 56. Load duration curve for Middle Yegua Creek SWQM station 11838. The solid red line indicates the allowable load at geomean criterion (126 MPN/100mL) and the gray dashed line is allowable load at single sample criterion (399 MPN/100mL). The black circles indicate the existing geomean load in each flow regime (MPN/day)

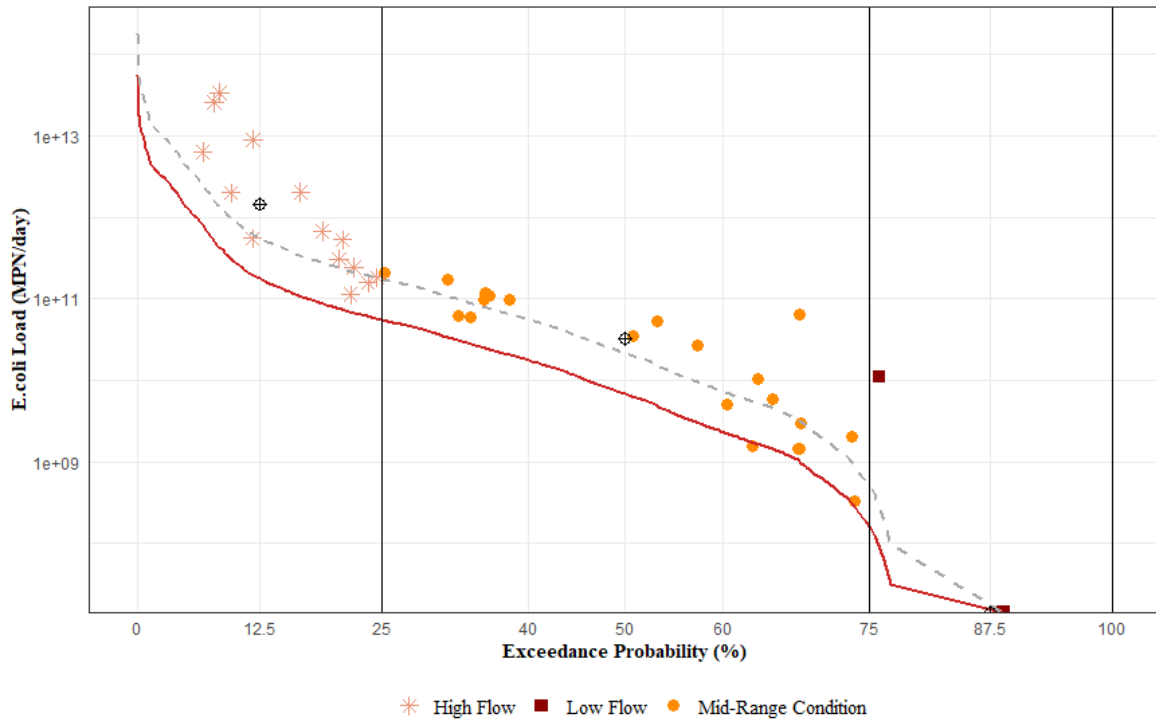


Figure 57. Load duration curve for Davidson Creek SWQM stations 11729, 18349, and 21420. The solid red line indicates the allowable load at geomean criterion (126 MPN/100mL) and the gray dashed line is allowable load at single sample criterion (399 MPN/100mL). The black circles indicate the existing geomean load in each flow regime (MPN/day)

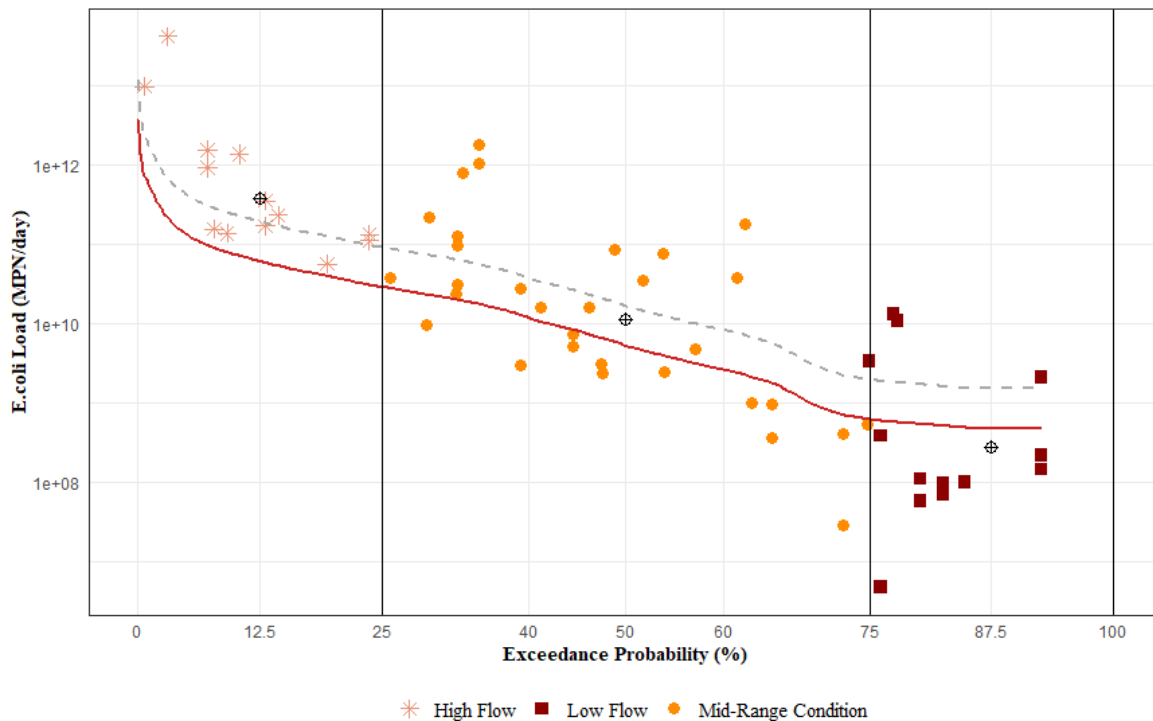


Figure 58. Load duration curve for Deer Creek SWQM stations 11723 and 18644. The solid red line indicates the allowable load at geomean criterion (126 MPN/100mL) and the gray dashed line is allowable load at single sample criterion (399 MPN/100mL). The black circles indicate the existing geomean load in each flow regime (MPN/day)

Based on the LDCs developed for Middle Yegua Creek, a total reduction of  $5.90 \times 10^{13}$  MPN/year (yr) is required at SWQM stations 18750 and 11840 (**Error! Reference source not found.**) as well as a total reduction  $1.15 \times 10^{13}$  MPN/yr at SWQM station 11838 (**Error! Reference source not found.**) to reach primary contact recreation standards. Appendix B details the calculations used to develop the annual load reduction estimates.

A total reduction of  $1.22 \times 10^{14}$  MPN/yr is required at the Davidson Creek SWQM stations 11729, 18349, and 21420 (**Error! Reference source not found.**). The largest reduction is needed during higher flows where NPSs of bacteria are a primary concern.

For Deer Creek SWQM stations 11723 and 18644, a total reduction of  $3.06 \times 10^{13}$  MPN/yr is required (**Error! Reference source not found.**). Similar to Middle Yegua Creek and Davidson Creek, the largest reduction is needed during the higher flows.

Table 21. Bacteria load reductions required to meet water quality goals in Middle Yegua Creek for SWQM stations 18750 and 11840

	Flow Conditions		
	High	Mid-Range	Low
Days per year	91.25	182.5	91.25
Median Flow (cubic feet per second)	56.4	9.45	1.1
Existing Geomean Concentration (MPN/100 mL)	528	322	170
Allowable Daily Load (Billion MPN)	173.88	29.13	3.39
Allowable Annual Load (Billion MPN)	15,866.81	5,317.07	309.46
Existing Daily Load (Billion MPN)	728.67	74.47	4.58
Existing Annual Load (Billion MPN)	66,491.31	13,591.33	417.90
Annual Load Reduction Needed (Billion MPN)	50,624.51	8,274.26	108.44
Percent Reduction Needed	76.14%	60.88%	25.95%
Total Annual Load (Billion MPN)	80,500.54		
Total Annual Load Reduction (Billion MPN)	59,007.20		
Total Percent Reduction	73.30%		

Table 22. Bacteria load reductions required to meet water quality goals in Middle Yegua Creek for SWQM station 11838

	Flow Conditions		
	High	Mid-Range	Low
Days per year	91.25	182.5	91.25
Median Flow (cubic feet per second)	56.4	9.45	1.1
Existing Geomean Concentration (MPN/100 mL)	214	135	100
Allowable Daily Load (Billion MPN)	173.88	29.13	3.39
Allowable Annual Load (Billion MPN)	15,866.81	5,317.07	309.46
Existing Daily Load (Billion MPN)	295.87	31.16	2.69
Existing Annual Load (Billion MPN)	26,998.44	5,687.29	245.70
Annual Load Reduction Needed (Billion MPN)	11,131.63	370.22	0
Percent Reduction Needed	41.23%	6.51%	0%
Total Annual Load (Billion MPN)	32,931.43		
Total Annual Load Reduction (Billion MPN)	11,501.86		
Total Percent Reduction	34.93%		

Table 23. Bacteria load reductions required to meet water quality goals in Davidson Creek for SWQM stations 11729, 18349, and 21420

	Flow Conditions		
	High	Mid-Range	Low
Days per year	91.25	182.5	91.25
Median Flow (cubic feet per second)	57.7	2.19	0
Existing Geomean Concentration (MPN/100 mL)	1,034	599	498
Allowable Daily Load (Billion MPN)	177.89	6.75	0
Allowable Annual Load (Billion MPN)	16,232.53	1,232.21	0
Existing Daily Load (Billion MPN)	1,459.91	32.12	0
Existing Annual Load (Billion MPN)	133,216.34	5,862.77	0
Annual Load Reduction Needed (Billion MPN)	116,983.81	4,630.56	0
Percent Reduction Needed	87.81%	78.98%	0%
Total Annual Load (Billion MPN)	139,079.11		
Total Annual Load Reduction (Billion MPN)	121,614.37		
Total Percent Reduction	87.44%		



Table 24. Bacteria load reductions required to meet water quality goals in Deer Creek for SWQM stations 11723 and 18644

	Flow Conditions		
	High	Mid-Range	Low
Days per year	91.25	182.5	91.25
Median Flow (cubic feet per second)	19.53	1.68	0.16
Existing Geomean Concentration (MPN/100 mL)	801	276	73
Allowable Daily Load (Billion MPN)	60.21	5.18	0.48
Allowable Annual Load (Billion MPN)	5,494.30	945.26	43.89
Existing Daily Load (Billion MPN)	382.70	11.36	0.28
Existing Annual Load (Billion MPN)	34,921.66	2,073.47	25.44
Annual Load Reduction Needed (Billion MPN)	29,427.36	1,128.21	0
Percent Reduction Needed	84.27%	54.41%	0%
Total Annual Load (Billion MPN)	37,020.57		
Total Annual Load Reduction (Billion MPN)	30,555.57		
Total Percent Reduction	82.54%		

## Pollutant Source Load Estimates

### GIS Analysis

To aid in identifying potential areas of *E. coli* contributions within the watersheds, a GIS analysis was applied using the methodology employed by the Spatially Explicit Load Enrichment Calculation Tool (SELECT) (Borel et al., 2012). The best available information was used to identify likely NPSs of bacteria and calculate potential loadings.

Using this GIS analysis approach, the relative potential for *E. coli* loading from each source can be compared and used to prioritize management. The loading estimates for each source are potential loading estimates that do not account for bacteria fate and transport processes that occur between the points where they originate and where they enter the water body, if at all. As such, these analyses represent worst case scenarios that do not represent the actual *E. coli* loadings expected to enter the creeks. Potential loads for identified sources are summarized for each of the subwatersheds (**Error! Reference source not found., Error! Reference source not found., Error! Reference source not found.**) found in all three watersheds.

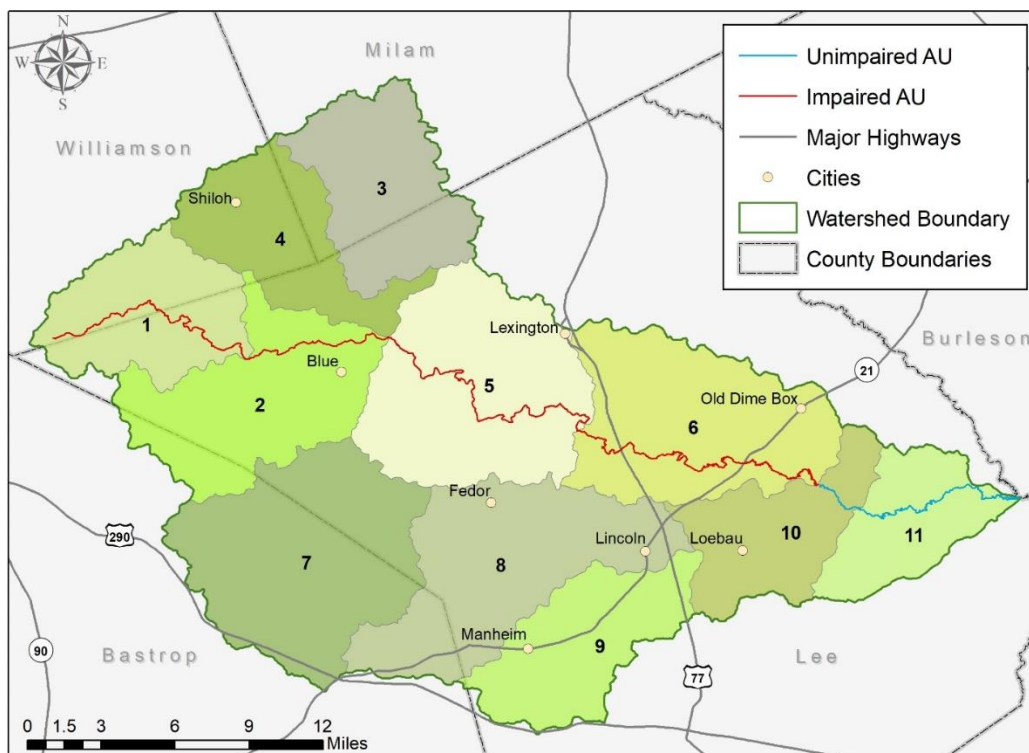


Figure 59. Middle Yegua Creek subwatersheds

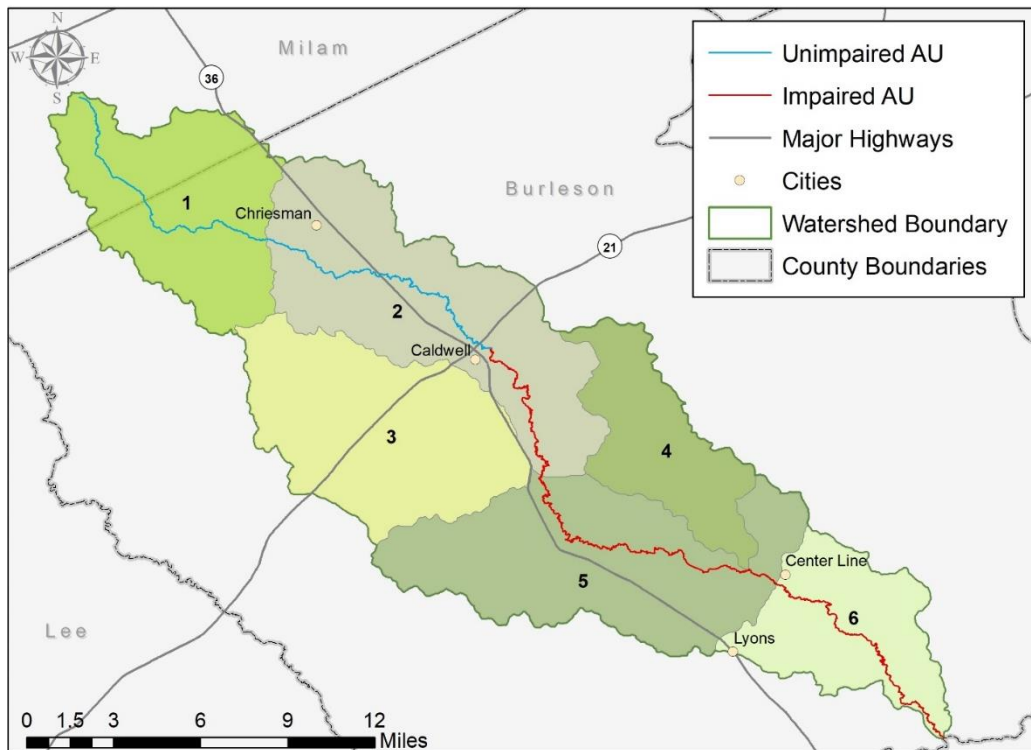


Figure 60. Davidson Creek subwatersheds

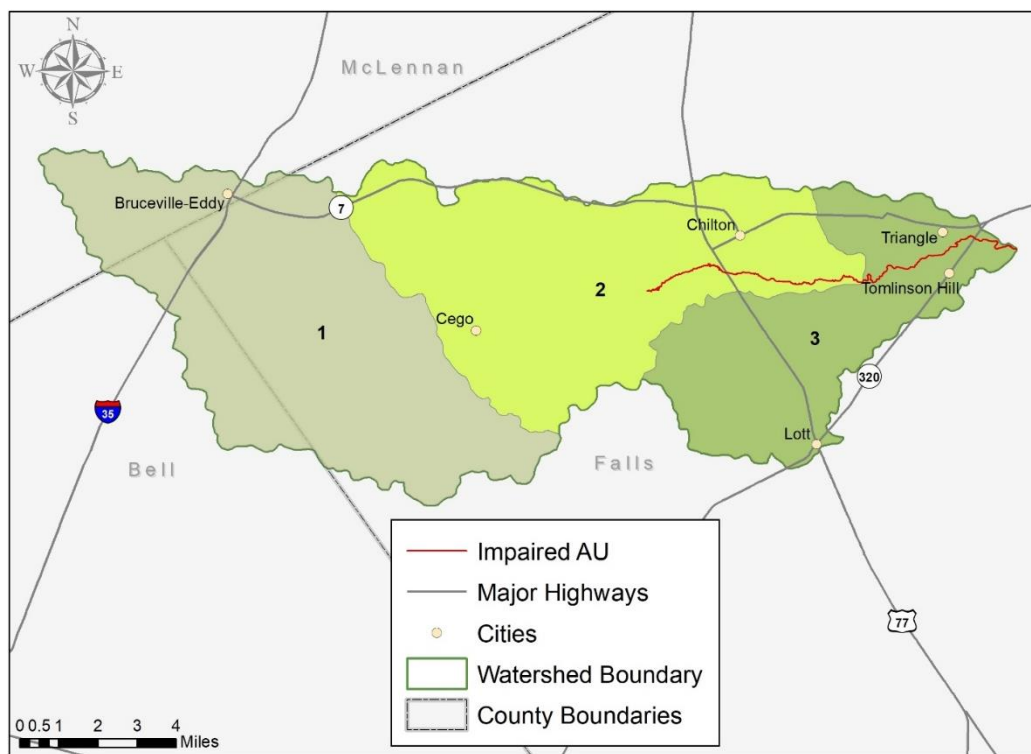


Figure 61. Deer Creek subwatersheds

## Livestock: Cattle

Cattle can contribute to *E. coli* bacteria loading in two ways. First, they can contribute through the direct deposition of fecal matter into streams while wading. Second, runoff from pasture and rangeland can contain elevated levels of *E. coli*, which in turn can increase bacteria loads in the stream. Improved grazing practices and land stewardship can dramatically reduce runoff and bacteria loadings. For example, recent research in Texas watersheds indicate that rotational grazing and grazing livestock in upland pastures during wet seasons results in significant reductions in *E. coli* levels (Wagner et al., 2012). Furthermore, alternative water sources and shade structures located outside of riparian areas significantly reduce the amount of time cattle spend in and near streams, thus resulting in improved water quality (Wagner et al. 2013; Clary et al., 2016).

Based on the best available data, it was estimated that there are approximately 54,389 cattle animal units across the entire Middle Yegua Creek watershed. Appendix C describes the assumptions and equations used to estimate potential bacteria loading in the all three watersheds. GIS analysis indicated the highest potential annual loading for Middle Yegua Creek occur in subwatersheds 9 and 10 (Figure 62). Across the watershed, the estimated potential annual load due to cattle is  $1.07 \times 10^{17}$  colony forming units (cfu) per year.

For the Davidson Creek watershed, it was estimated that there are approximately 27,103 cattle animal units. GIS analysis indicated the highest potential annual loading occurs in subwatershed 5 (Figure 63). Across the watershed, the estimated potential annual load due to cattle is  $5.33 \times 10^{16}$  cfu/yr.

For the Deer Creek watershed, it was estimated that there are approximately 6,911 cattle animal units. GIS analysis indicated the highest potential annual loading occurs in subwatershed 1 (Figure 64). Across the watershed, the estimated potential annual load due to cattle is  $1.36 \times 10^{16}$  cfu/yr.

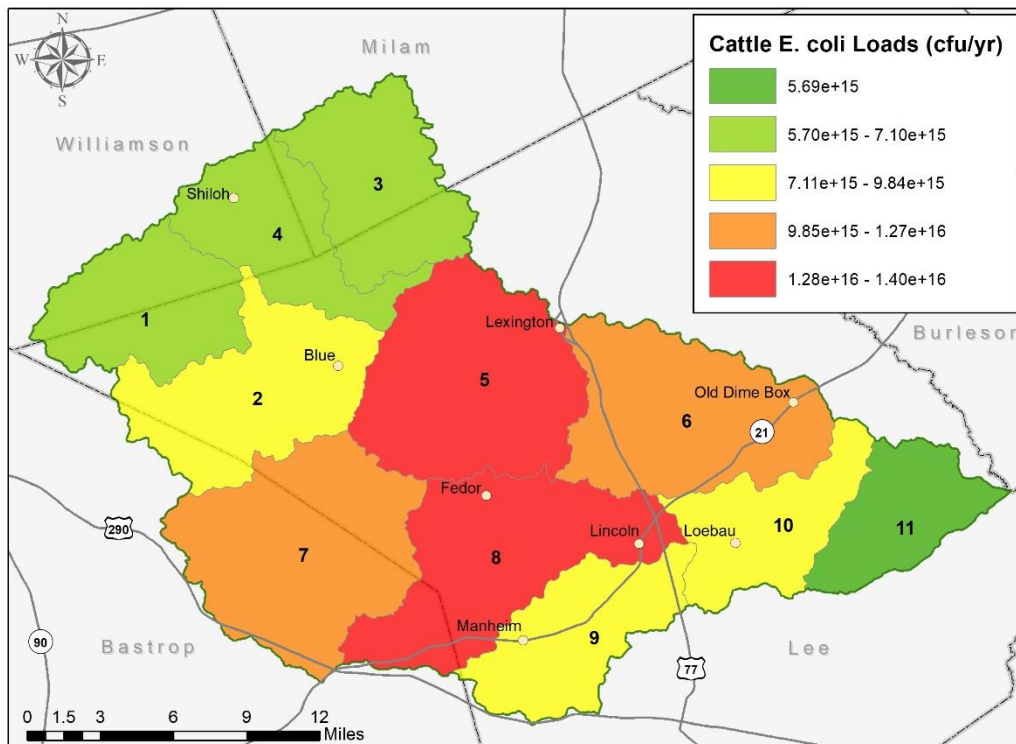


Figure 62. Potential annual bacteria loadings from cattle in the Middle Yegua Creek watershed

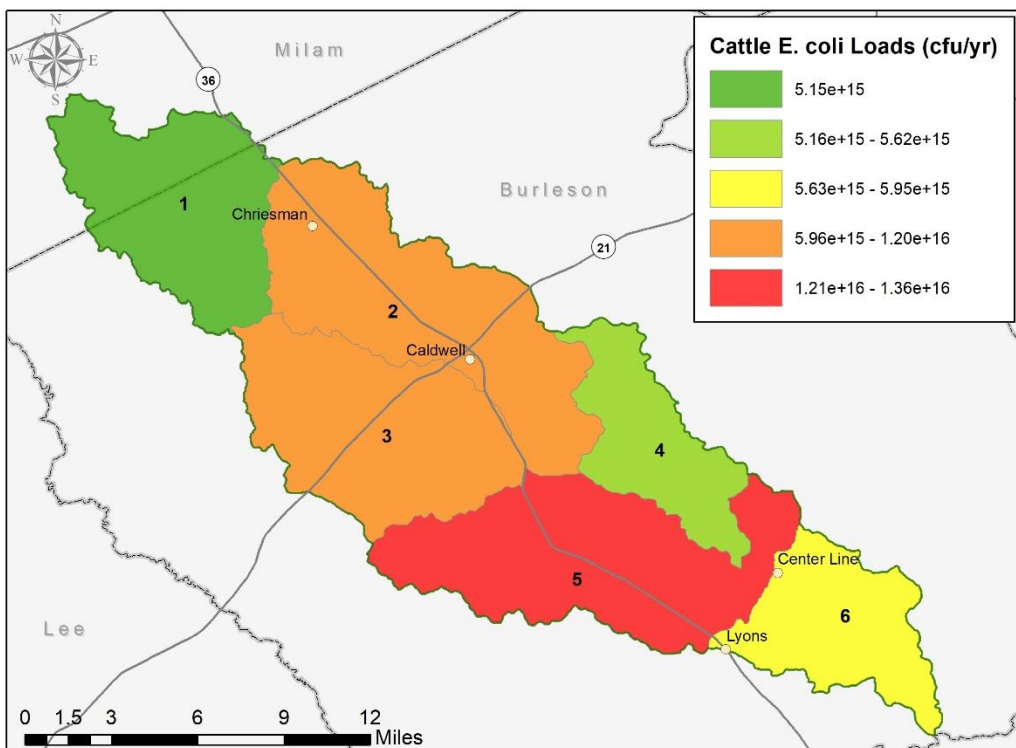


Figure 63. Potential annual bacteria loadings from cattle in the Davidson Creek watershed

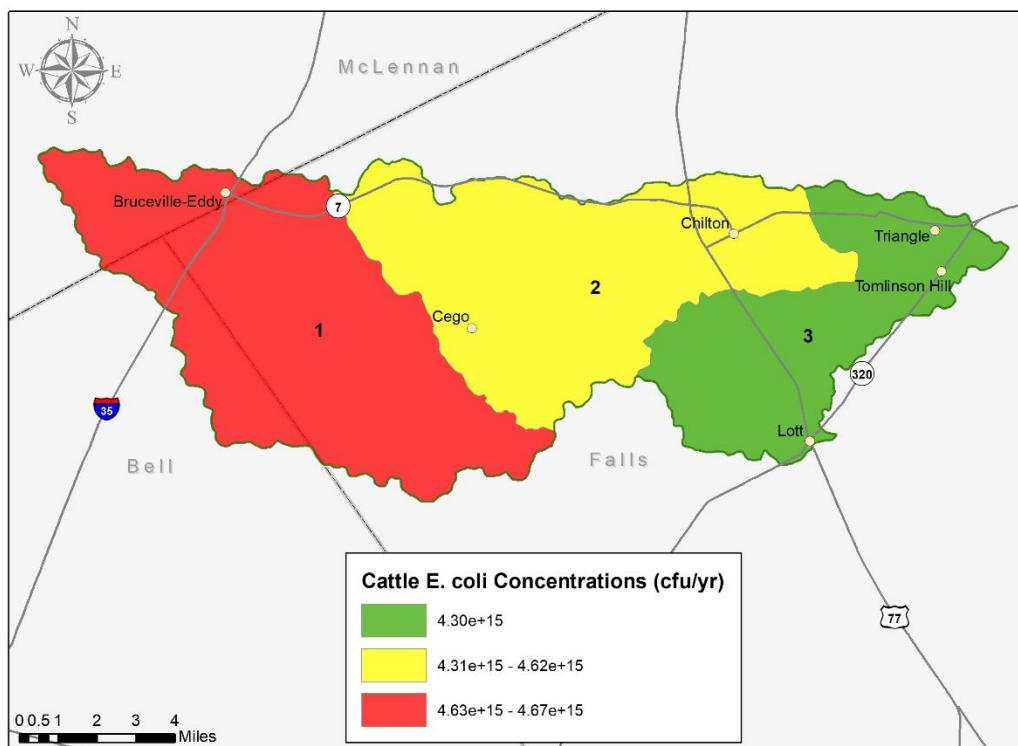


Figure 64. Potential annual bacteria loadings from cattle in the Deer Creek watershed



## Livestock: Horses

A total of 1,149 animal units of horses in the Middle Yegua Creek watershed were evenly distributed over shrub/scrub, grassland/herbaceous, and pasture/hay. GIS analysis indicated the highest potential annual loadings occur in subwatersheds 5, 6, 7, and 8 (Figure 65). Across the watershed, the estimated potential annual load due to horses is  $9.61 \times 10^{13}$  cfu/yr. Appendix C describes the equations and assumptions used to generate potential annual loads.

For the Davidson Creek watershed, it was estimated that there are approximately 456 horse animal units. GIS analysis indicated the highest potential annual loading occurs in subwatershed 5 (Figure 66). Across the watershed, the estimated potential annual load due to horses is  $3.81 \times 10^{13}$  cfu/yr.

For the Deer Creek watershed, it was estimated that there are approximately 247 horse animal units. GIS analysis indicated the highest potential annual loading occurs in subwatershed 1 (Figure 67). Across the watershed, the estimated potential annual load due to horses is  $2.07 \times 10^{13}$  cfu/yr.

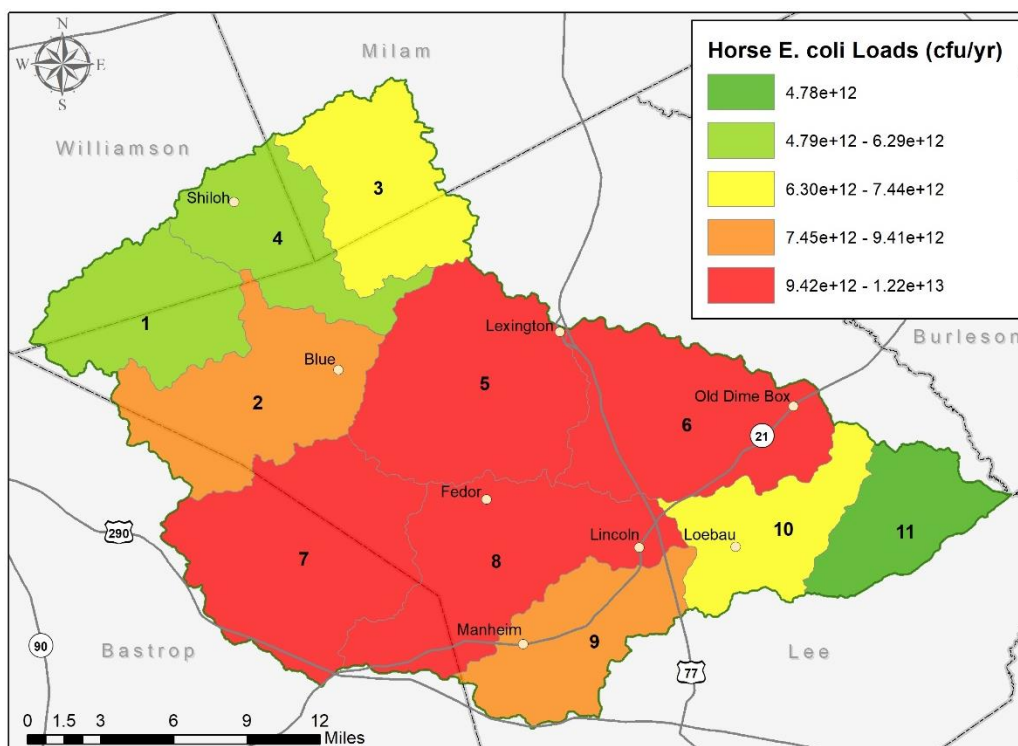


Figure 65. Potential annual bacteria loadings from horses in the Middle Yegua Creek watershed

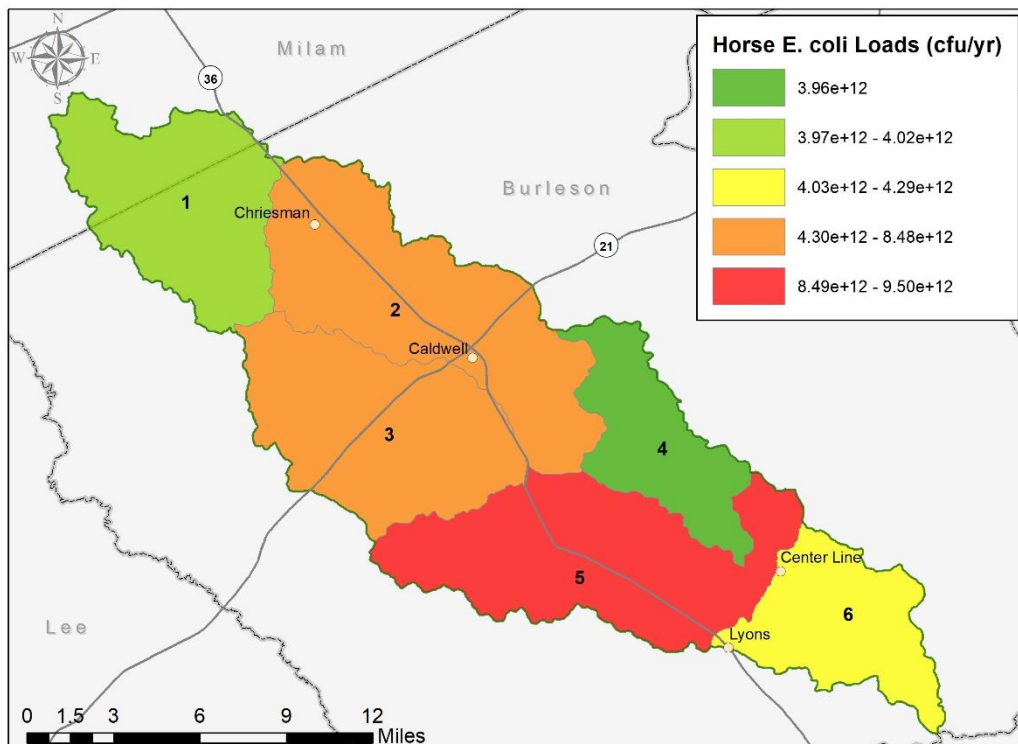


Figure 66. Potential annual bacteria loadings from horses in the Davidson Creek watershed

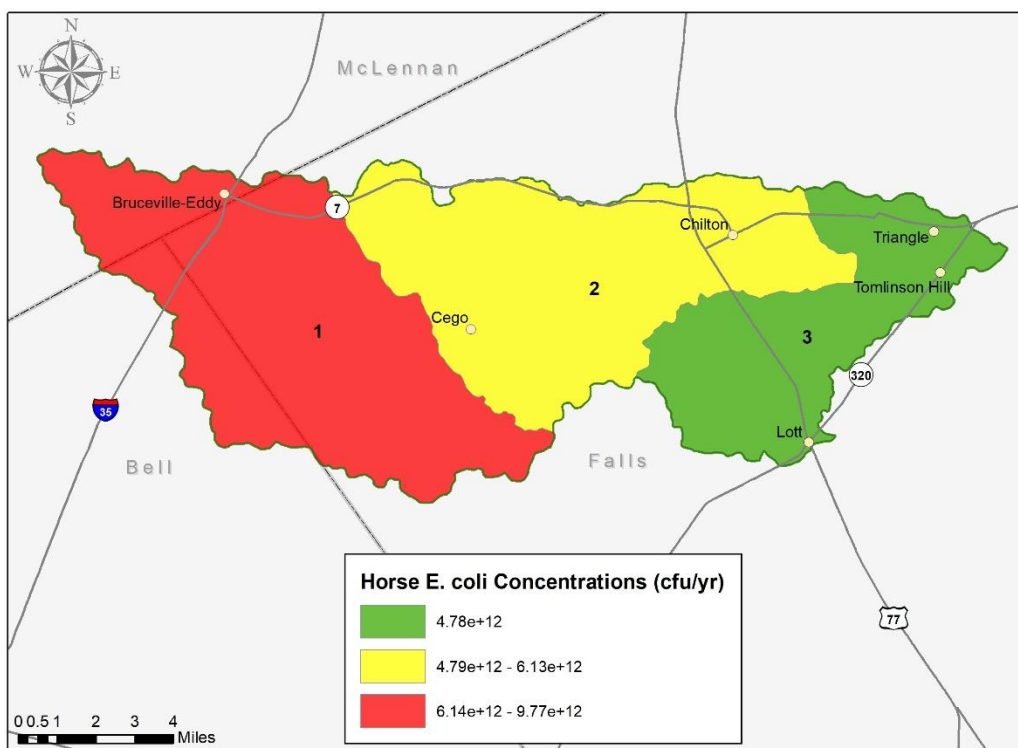


Figure 67. Potential annual bacteria loadings from horses in the Deer Creek watershed

## Livestock: Goats

A total of 1,268 animal units of goats in the Middle Yegua Creek watershed were evenly distributed over shrub/scrub, grassland/herbaceous, and pasture/hay. GIS analysis indicated the highest potential annual loadings occur in subwatersheds 5, 6, 7, and 8 (Figure 68). Across the watershed, the estimated potential annual load due to goats is  $1.26 \times 10^{15}$  cfu/yr. Appendix C describes the equations and assumptions used to generate potential annual loads.

For the Davidson Creek watershed, it was estimated that there are approximately 419 goat animal units. GIS analysis indicated the highest potential annual loading occurs in subwatershed 5 (Figure 69). Across the watershed, the estimated potential annual load due to goats is  $4.17 \times 10^{14}$  cfu/yr.

For the Deer Creek watershed, it was estimated that there are approximately 305 goat animal units. GIS analysis indicated the highest potential annual loading occurs in subwatershed 1 (Figure 70). Across the watershed, the estimated potential annual load due to goats is  $3.03 \times 10^{14}$  cfu/yr.

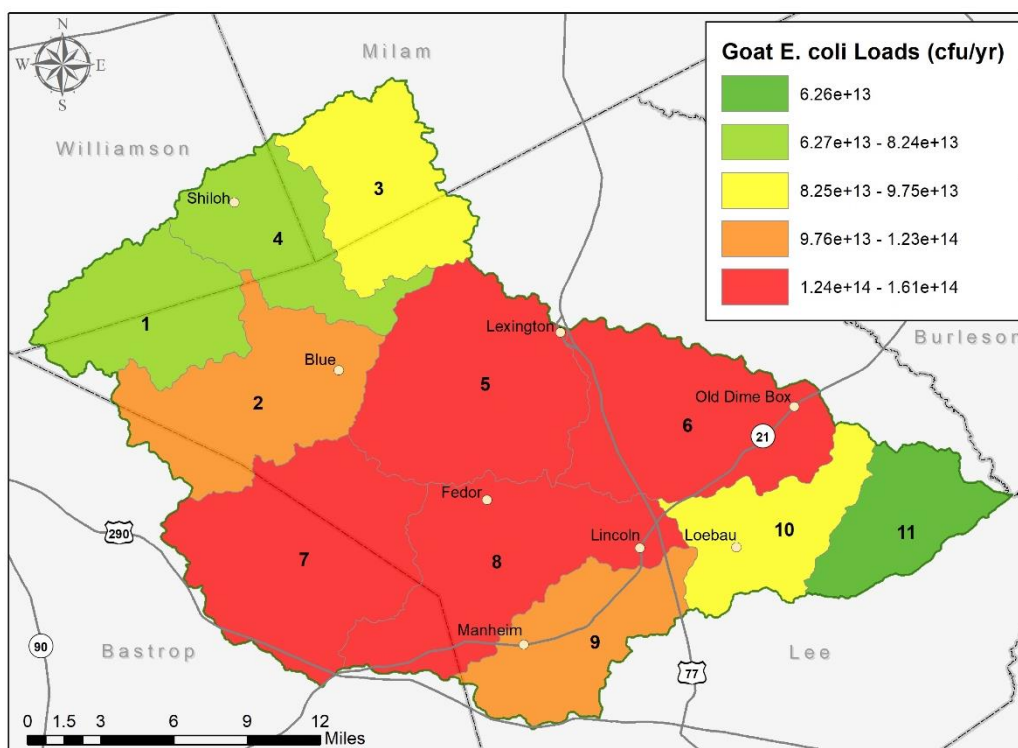


Figure 68. Potential annual bacteria loadings from goats in the Middle Yegua Creek watershed

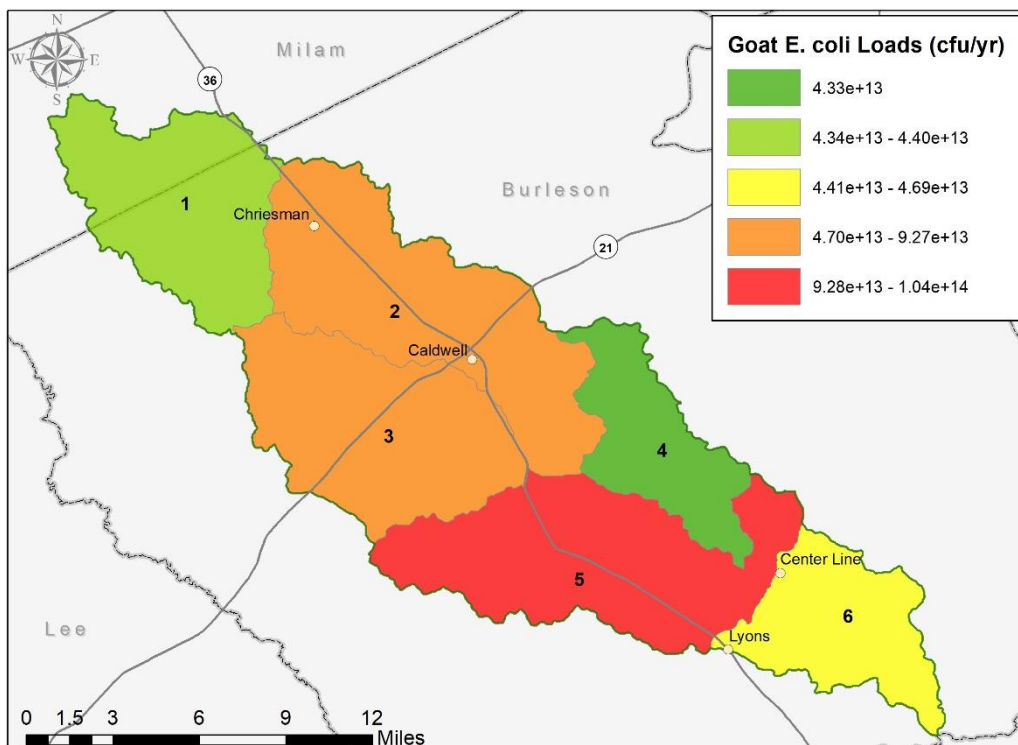


Figure 69. Potential annual bacteria loadings from goats in the Davidson Creek watershed

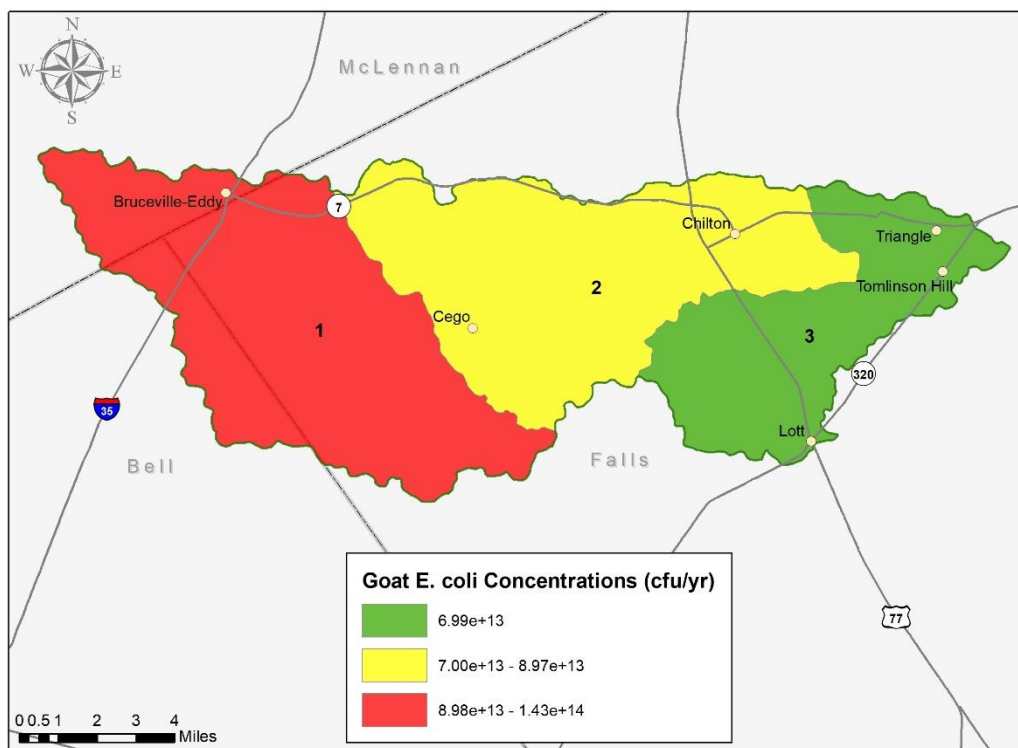


Figure 70. Potential annual bacteria loadings from goats in the Deer Creek watershed

## Livestock: Sheep

A total of 804 animal units of sheep in the Middle Yegua Creek watershed were evenly distributed over shrub/scrub, grassland/herbaceous, and pasture/hay. GIS analysis indicated the highest potential annual loadings occur in subwatersheds 5, 6, 7, and 8 (Figure 71). Across the watershed, the estimated potential annual load due to sheep is  $1.07 \times 10^{16}$  cfu/yr. Appendix C describes the equations and assumptions used to generate potential annual loads.

For the Davidson Creek watershed, it was estimated that there are approximately 290 sheep animal units. GIS analysis indicated the highest potential annual loading occurs in subwatershed 5 (Figure 72). Across the watershed, the estimated potential annual load due to sheep is  $3.86 \times 10^{15}$  cfu/yr.

For the Deer Creek watershed, it was estimated that there are approximately 378 sheep animal units. GIS analysis indicated the highest potential annual loading occurs in subwatershed 1 (Figure 73). Across the watershed, the estimated potential annual load due to sheep is  $5.04 \times 10^{15}$  cfu/yr.

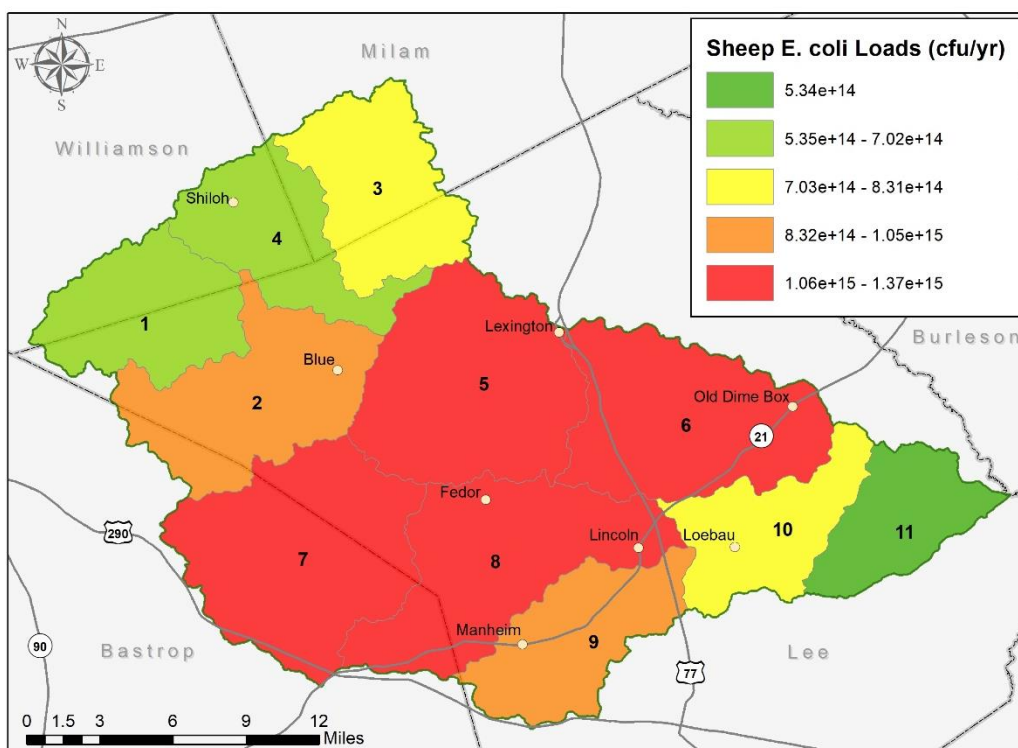


Figure 71. Potential annual bacteria loadings from sheep in the Middle Yegua Creek watershed



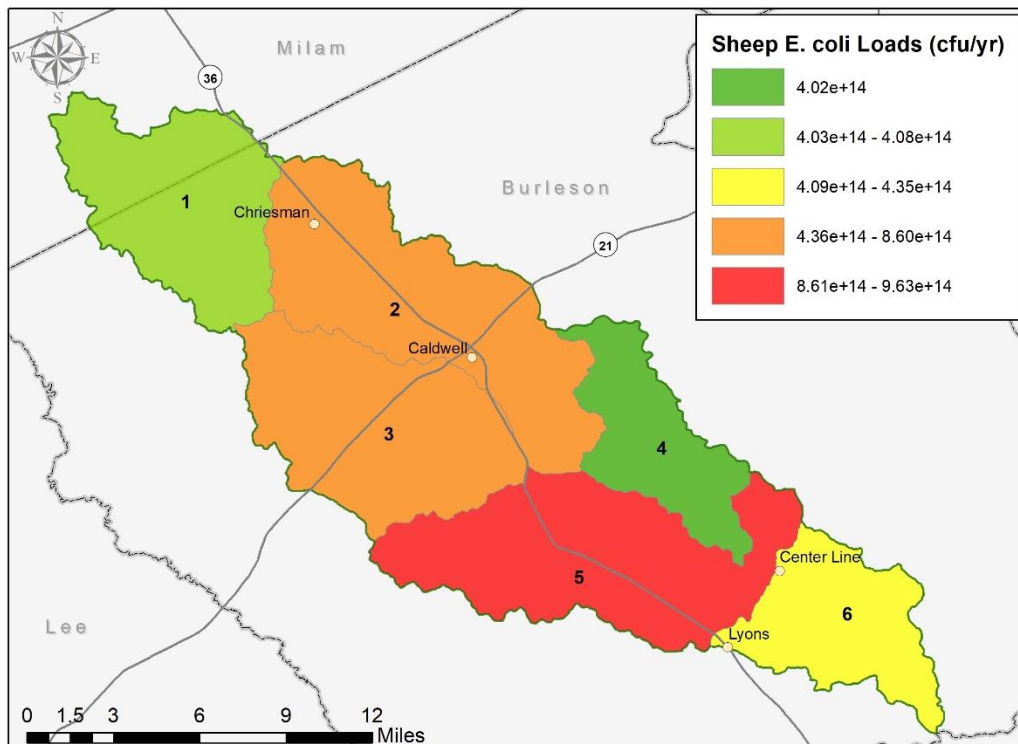


Figure 72. Potential annual bacteria loadings from sheep in the Davidson Creek watershed

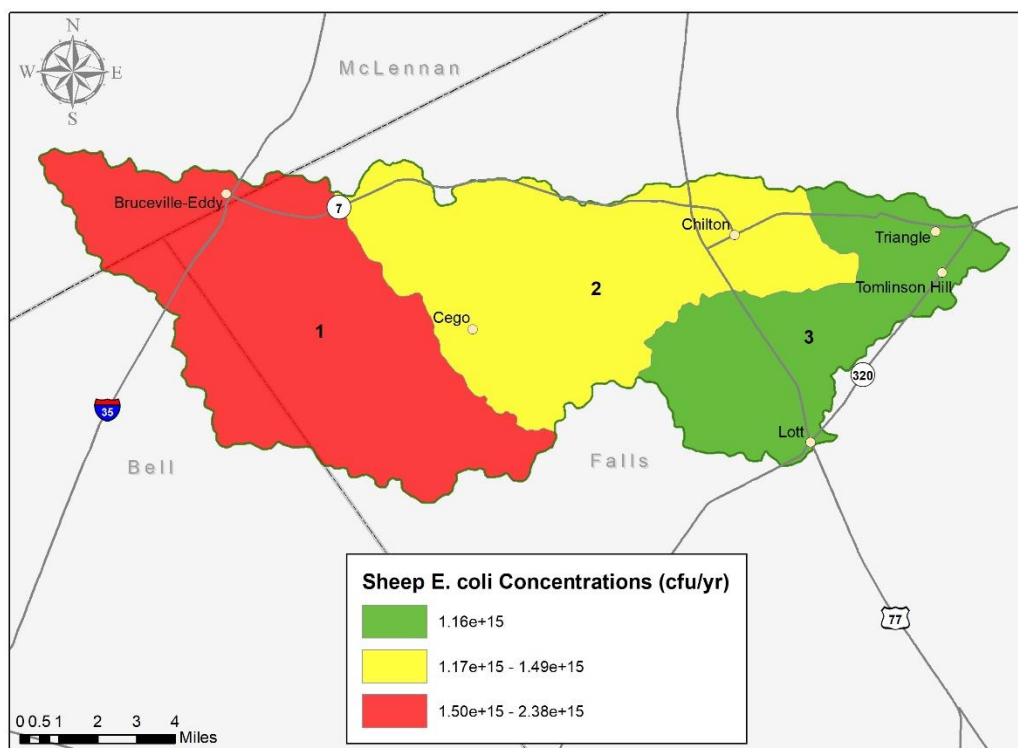


Figure 73. Potential annual bacteria loadings from sheep in the Deer Creek watershed



## Wildlife: Deer

Wildlife is another *E. coli* and nutrient source in the watershed. Riparian areas provide the most suitable wildlife habitat in the watershed, leading most wildlife to spend the majority of their time in these areas. The amount of fecal deposition is directly related to time spent in a given area, thus wildlife feces are considered a major source in the watershed. Deer populations were estimated using annual deer density estimates from TPWD surveys conducted in and near the watershed.

For the Middle Yegua Creek watershed, a deer population of 6,438 animals was estimated. GIS analysis indicated the highest potential annual loadings occur in subwatersheds 5 and 7 (Figure 74). Across the watershed, the estimated potential annual load due to deer is  $2.49 \times 10^{15}$  cfu/yr. Appendix C describes the equations and assumptions used to generate potential annual loads.

For the Davidson Creek watershed, it was estimated that there are approximately 3,144 deer with a density of 41.65 animals per acre. GIS analysis indicated the highest potential annual loadings occur in subwatersheds 2 and 5 (Figure 75). Across the watershed, the estimated potential annual load due to deer is  $1.21 \times 10^{15}$  cfu/yr.

For the Deer Creek watershed, it was estimated that there are approximately 2,602 deer with a density of 26.69 animals per acre. GIS analysis indicated the highest potential annual loading occurs in subwatershed 1 (Figure 76). Across the watershed, the estimated potential annual load due to deer is  $1.01 \times 10^{15}$  cfu/yr.

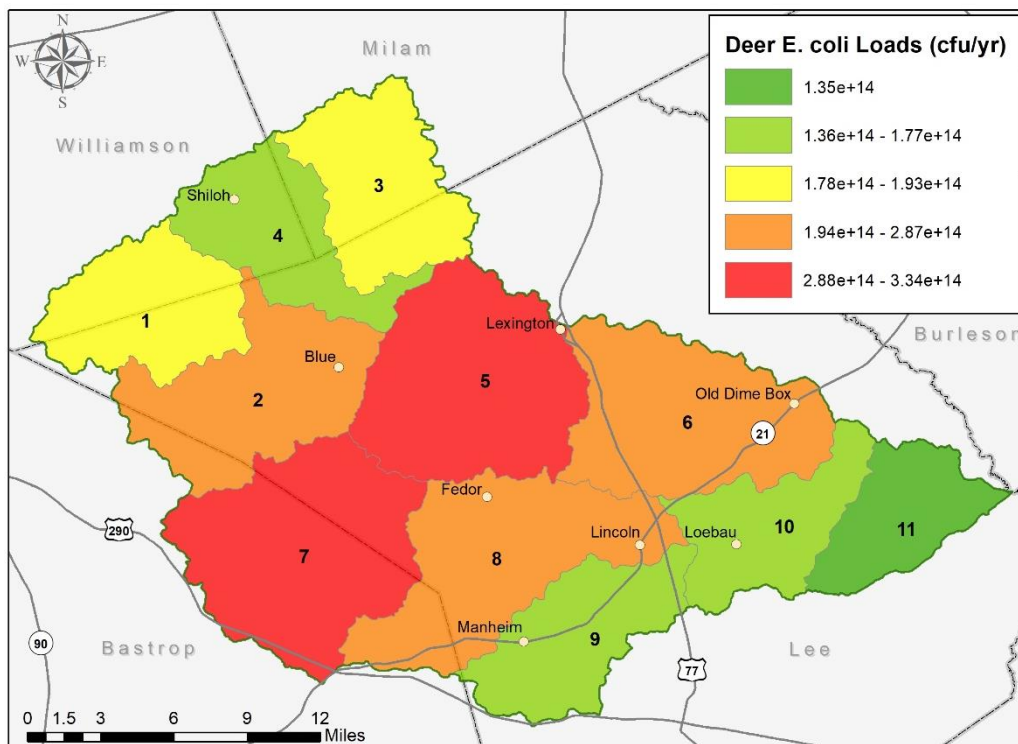


Figure 74. Potential annual bacteria loadings from deer in the Middle Yegua Creek watershed

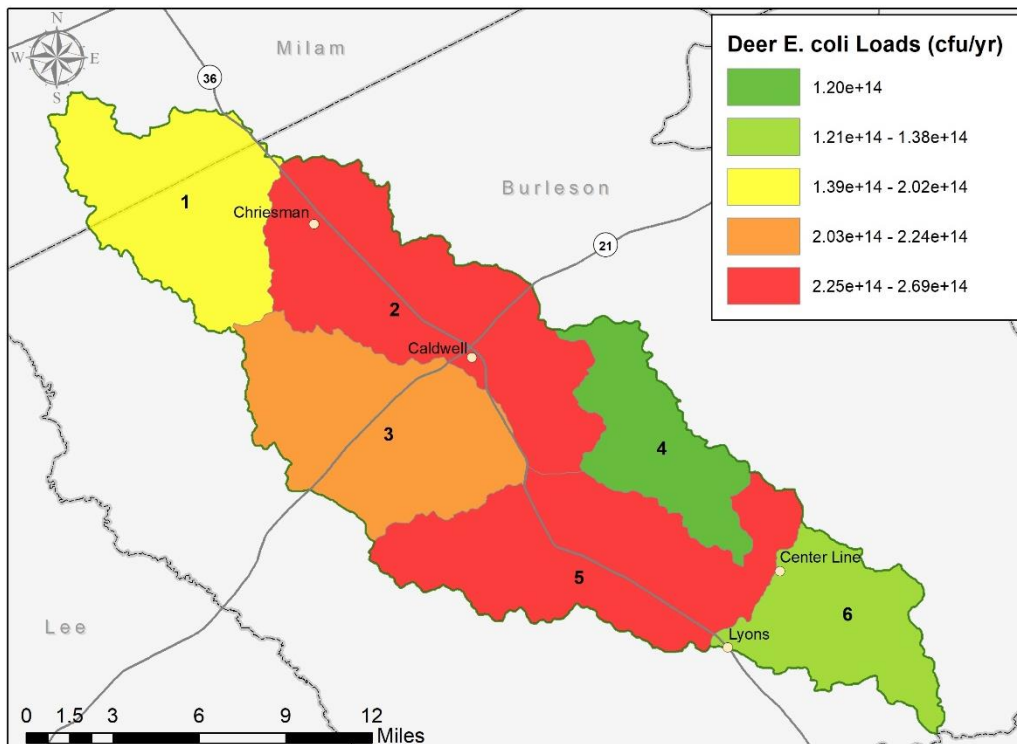


Figure 75. Potential annual bacteria loadings from deer in the Davidson Creek watershed

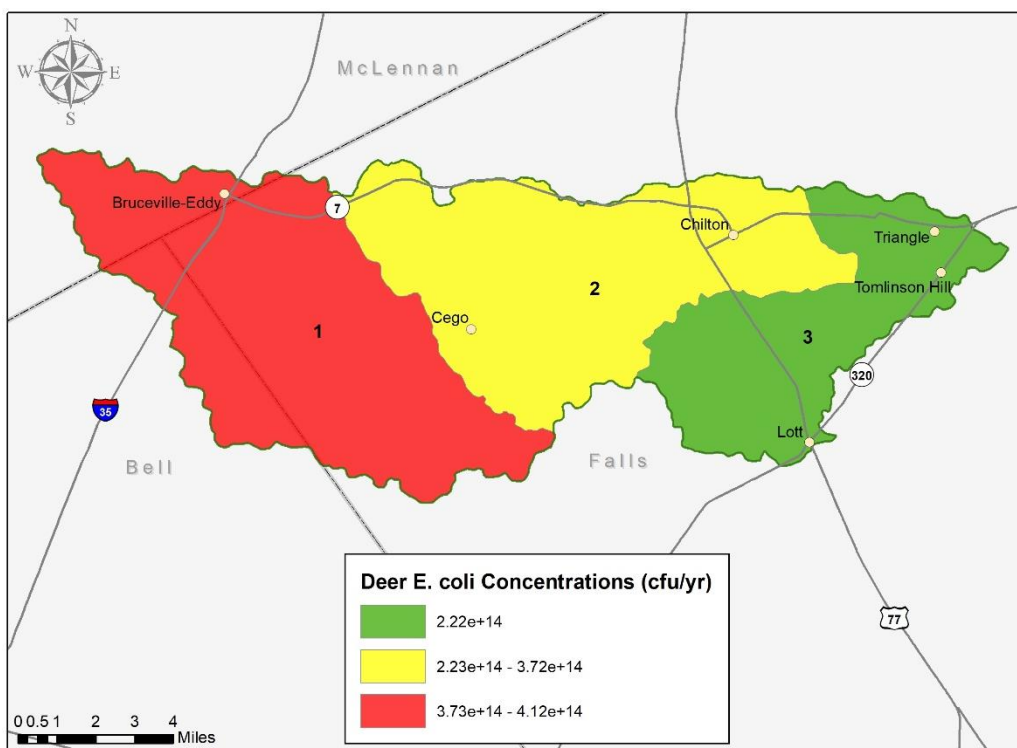


Figure 76. Potential annual bacteria loadings from deer in the Deer Creek watershed

## Wildlife: Feral Hogs

Feral hogs (*Sus scrofa*) are an introduced, non-native and invasive species. Early settlers released some of the first domestic hogs in the Texas landscape as early as the 1680s, with many of these hogs becoming feral over time as animals were left to fend for themselves (Mayer, 2009; Mapston, 2010). Documented introductions of Eurasian wild boar occurred in the early 1920s through the 1940s along the Texas Central Coast, including at the St. Charles Ranch in what is now the nearby Aransas National Wildlife Refuge (Mayer 2009). Current population estimates of feral hogs in Texas alone range from 1 to 3 million individuals (Mayer, 2009; Mapston, 2010).

Feral hogs contribute to *E. coli* bacteria loadings through the direct deposition of fecal matter into streams while wading or wallowing in riparian areas. Riparian areas provide ideal habitats and migratory corridors for feral hogs as they search for food. While complete removal of feral hog populations is unlikely, habitat management and trapping programs can limit populations and associated damage.

For the Middle Yegua Creek watershed, a watershed-wide estimate of 8,053 hogs was produced. GIS analysis indicated the highest potential annual loadings occur in subwatersheds 5 and 7 (Figure 77). Across the watershed, the estimated potential annual load due to feral hogs is  $2.80 \times 10^{14}$  cfu/yr. Appendix C describes the equations and assumptions used to generate potential annual loads.

For the Davidson Creek watershed, it was estimated that there are approximately 3,932 feral hogs within the watershed. GIS analysis indicated the highest potential annual loadings occur in subwatersheds 2 and 5 (Figure 78). Across the watershed, the estimated potential annual load due to feral hogs is  $1.37 \times 10^{14}$  cfu/yr.

For the Deer Creek watershed, it was estimated that there are approximately 2,085 feral hogs within the watershed. GIS analysis indicated the highest potential annual loading occurs in subwatershed 1 (Figure 79). Across the watershed, the estimated potential annual load due to feral hogs is  $7.25 \times 10^{13}$  cfu/yr.

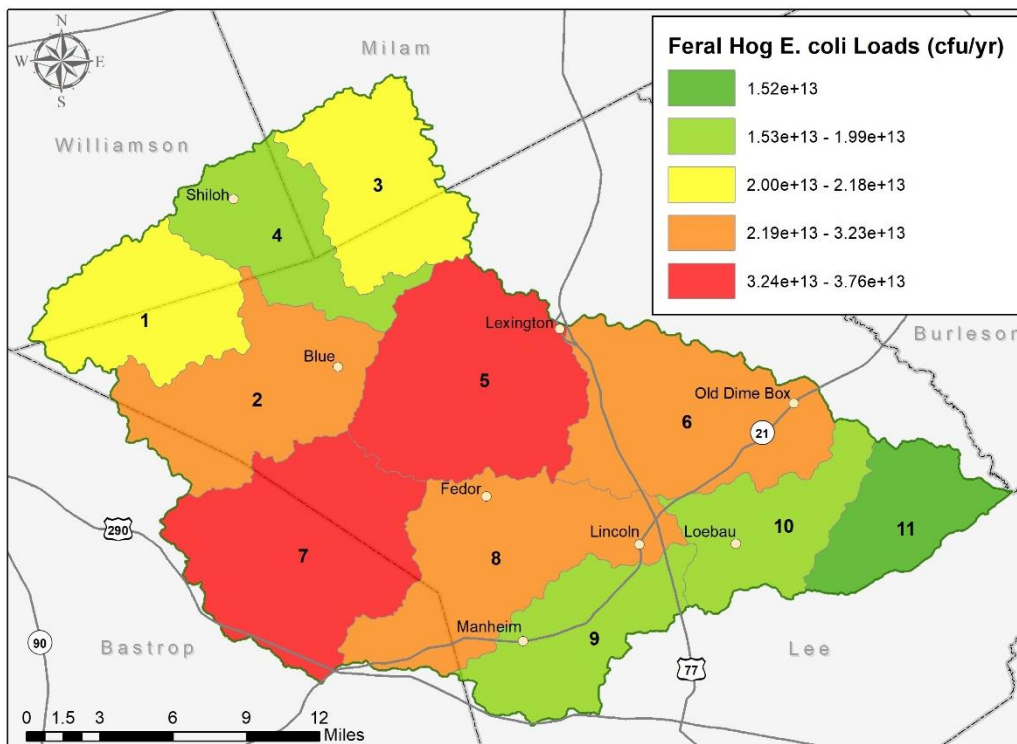


Figure 77. Potential annual bacteria loadings from feral hogs in the Middle Yegua Creek watershed

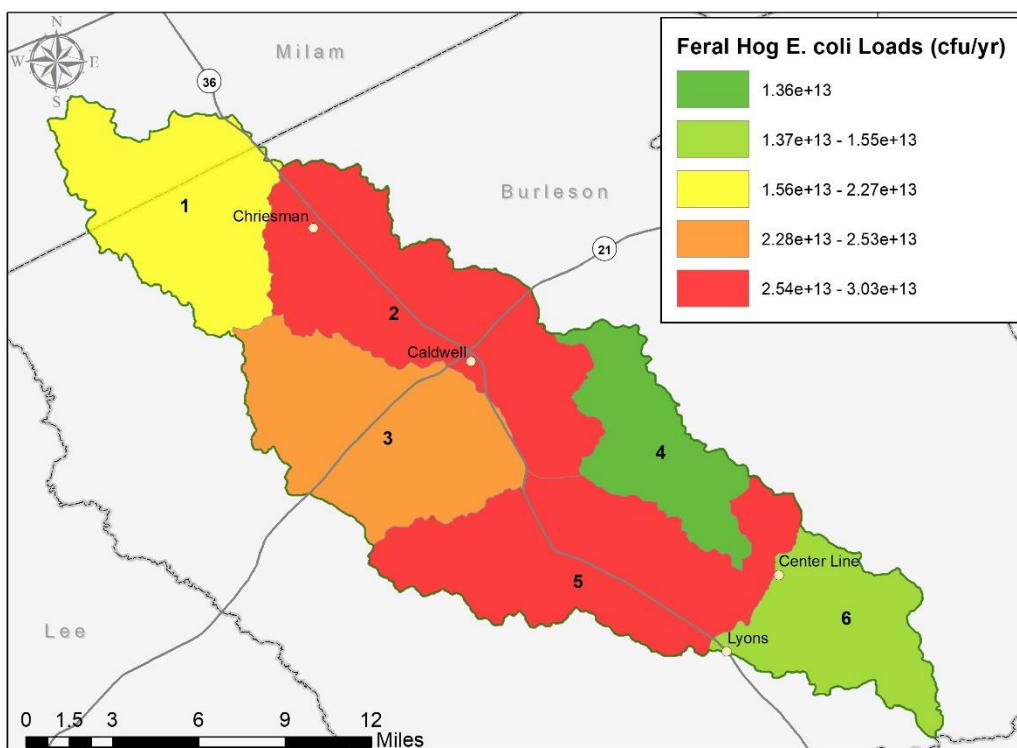


Figure 78. Potential annual bacteria loadings from feral hogs in the Davidson Creek watershed

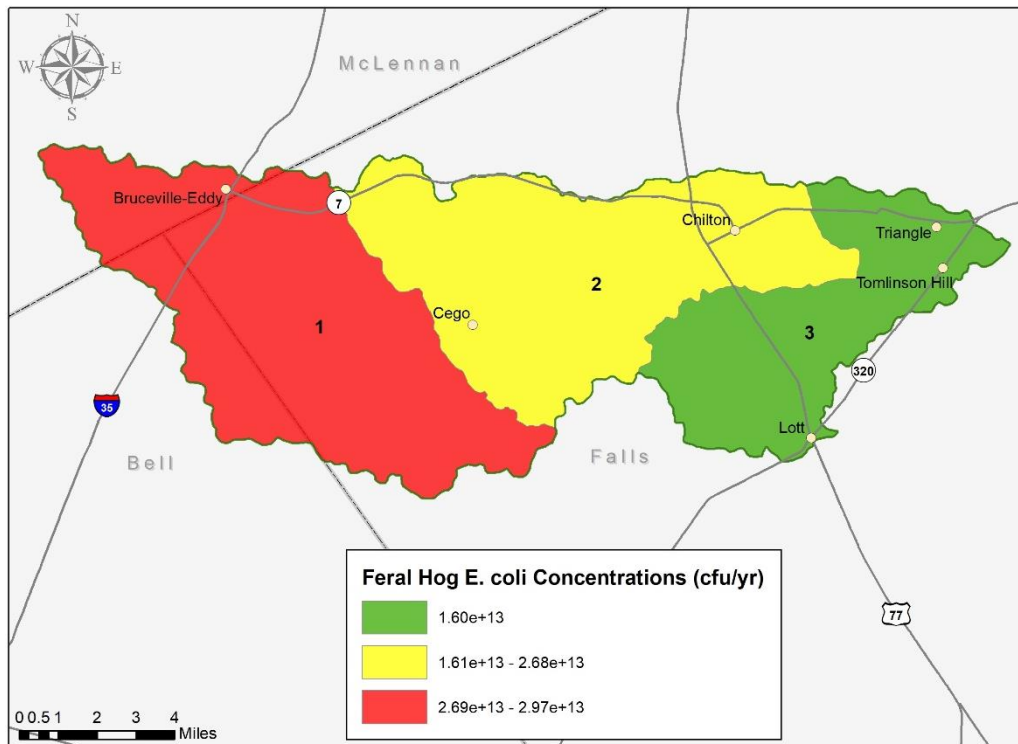


Figure 79. Potential annual bacteria loadings from feral hogs in the Deer Creek watershed

## OSSFs

Failing or unmaintained OSSFs can contribute to bacteria loads in water bodies, particularly those where effluent is released near the water bodies. Within all three watersheds, approximately 15% of OSSFs are assumed to fail on a given year. For the Middle Yegua Creek watershed it was estimated that there are approximately 3,953 OSSFs within the watershed based on the most recently available 911 address data. GIS analysis indicated the highest potential annual loading occurs in subwatershed 5 (Figure 80). Across the watershed, the estimated potential annual load due to OSSFs is  $7.93 \times 10^{15}$  cfu/yr. Appendix C describes the equations and assumptions used to generate potential annual loads.

For the Davidson Creek watershed, it was estimated that there are approximately 2,408 OSSFs within the watershed. GIS analysis indicated the highest potential annual loadings occur in subwatersheds 3 and 5 (Figure 81). Across the watershed, the estimated potential annual load due to OSSFs is  $4.79 \times 10^{15}$  cfu/yr.

For the Deer Creek watershed, it was estimated that there are approximately 1,685 OSSFs within the watershed. GIS analysis indicated the highest potential annual loading occurs in subwatershed 1 (Figure 82). Across the watershed, the estimated potential annual load due to OSSFs is  $3.85 \times 10^{15}$  cfu/yr.



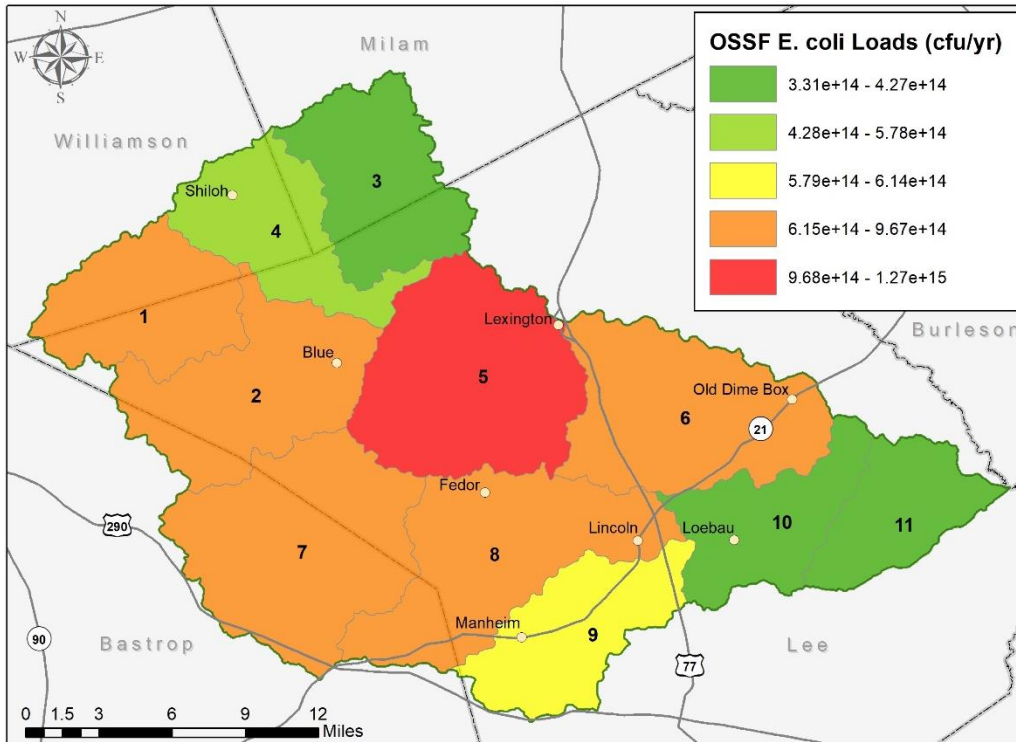


Figure 80. Potential annual bacteria loadings from OSSFs in the Middle Yegua Creek watershed

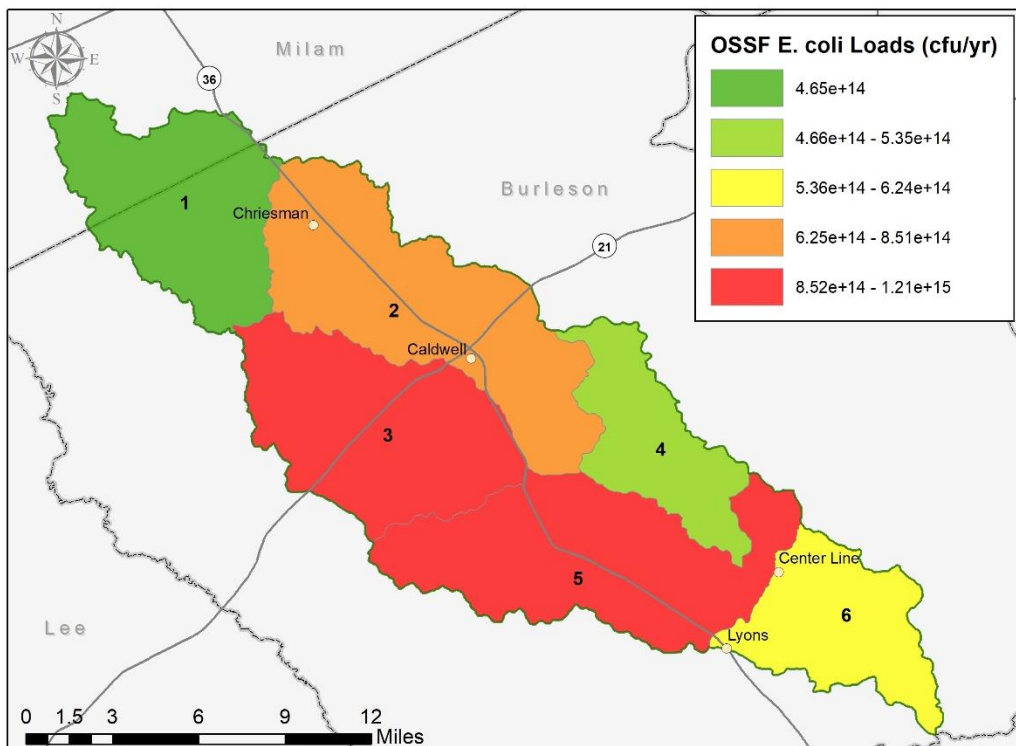


Figure 81. Potential annual bacteria loadings from OSSFs in the Davidson Creek watershed



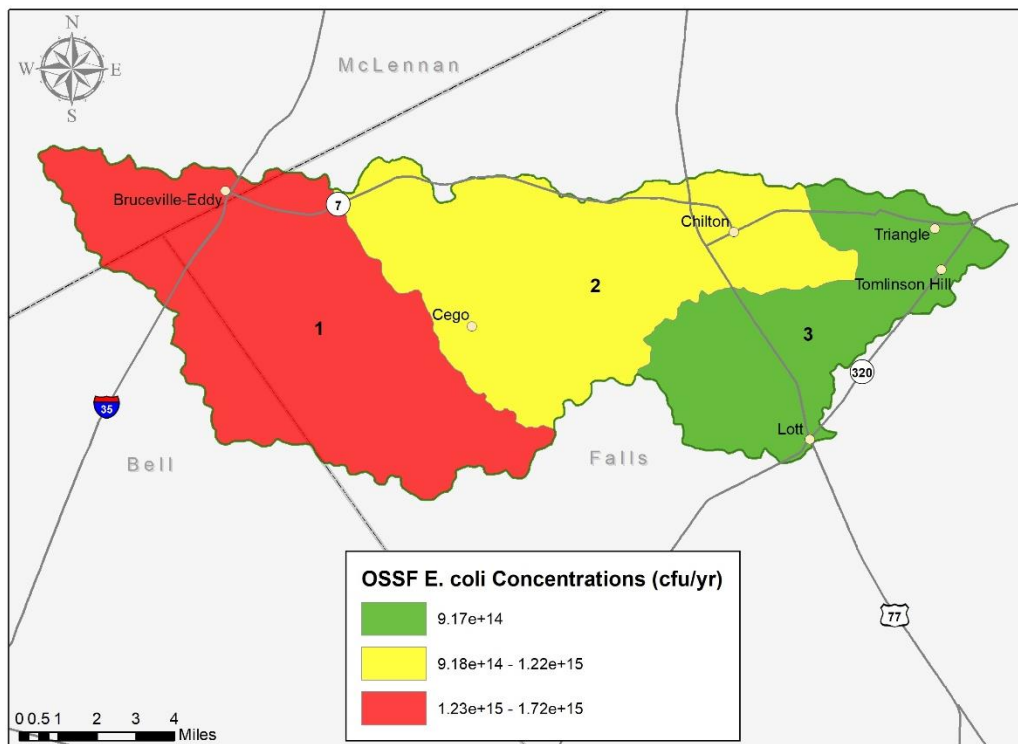


Figure 82. Potential annual bacteria loadings from OSSFs in the Deer Creek watershed

### Domestic Pets: Dogs

Domestic pets, with a particular emphasis on dogs, can contribute to bacteria loadings when pet waste is not disposed of and subsequently washes into nearby water bodies during rain and storm events. The highest potential loads from domestic pets are anticipated to occur in developed and urbanized areas. For the Middle Yegua Creek watershed it was estimated that there are approximately 2,256 dogs within the watershed. GIS analysis indicated the highest potential annual loading occurs in subwatershed 5 (Figure 83). Across the watershed, the estimated potential annual load due to dogs is  $2.59 \times 10^{15}$  cfu/yr. Appendix C describes the equations and assumptions used to generate potential annual loads.

For the Davidson Creek watershed, it was estimated that there are approximately 2,435 dogs within the watershed. GIS analysis indicated the highest potential annual loadings occur in subwatersheds 2 and 3 (Figure 84). Across the watershed, the estimated potential annual load due to dogs is  $2.80 \times 10^{15}$  cfu/yr.

For the Deer Creek watershed, it was estimated that there are approximately 1,003 dogs within the watershed. GIS analysis indicated the highest potential annual loading occurs in subwatershed 1 (Figure 85). Across the watershed, the estimated potential annual load due to dogs is  $1.15 \times 10^{15}$  cfu/yr.

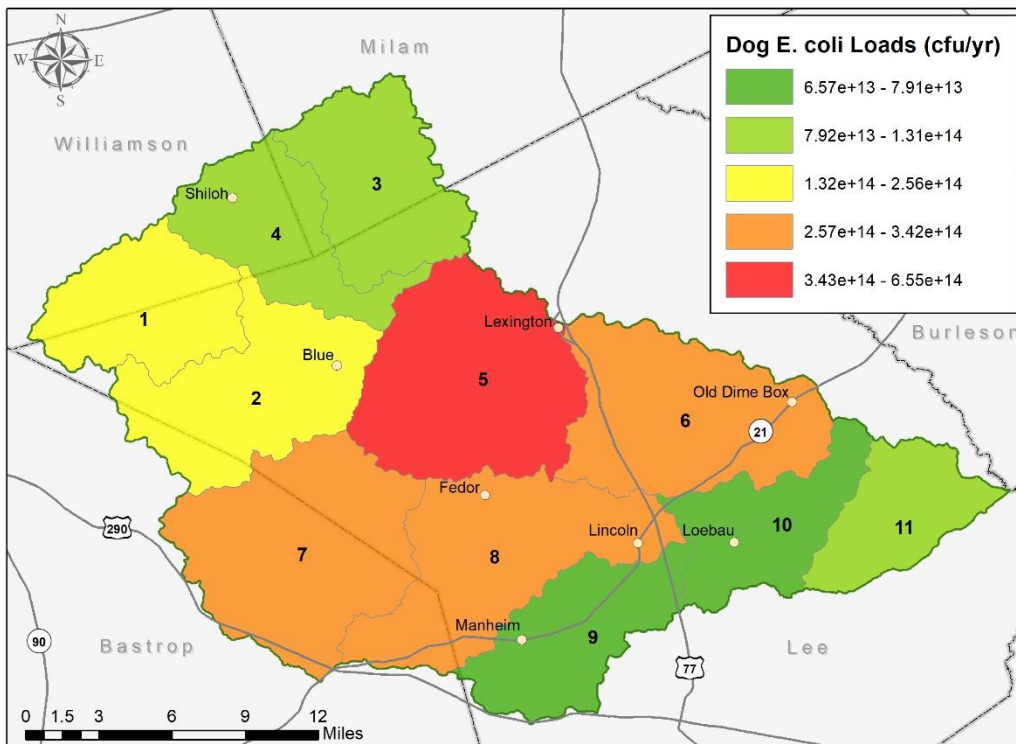


Figure 83. Potential annual bacteria loadings from dogs in the Middle Yegua Creek watershed

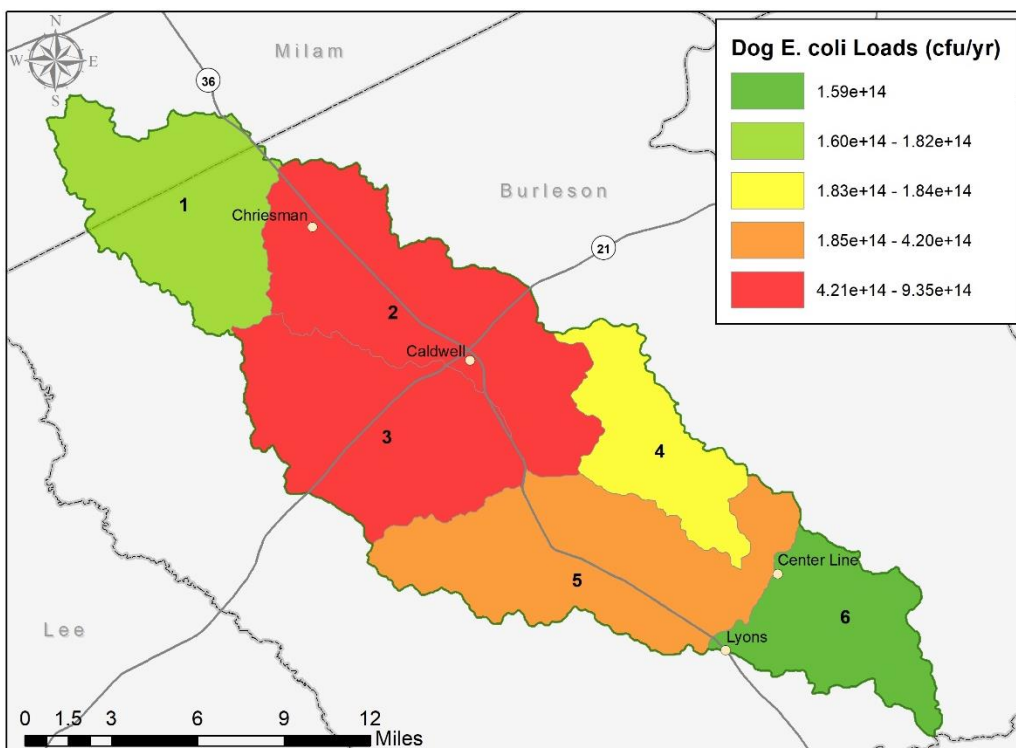


Figure 84. Potential annual bacteria loadings from dogs in the Davidson Creek watershed

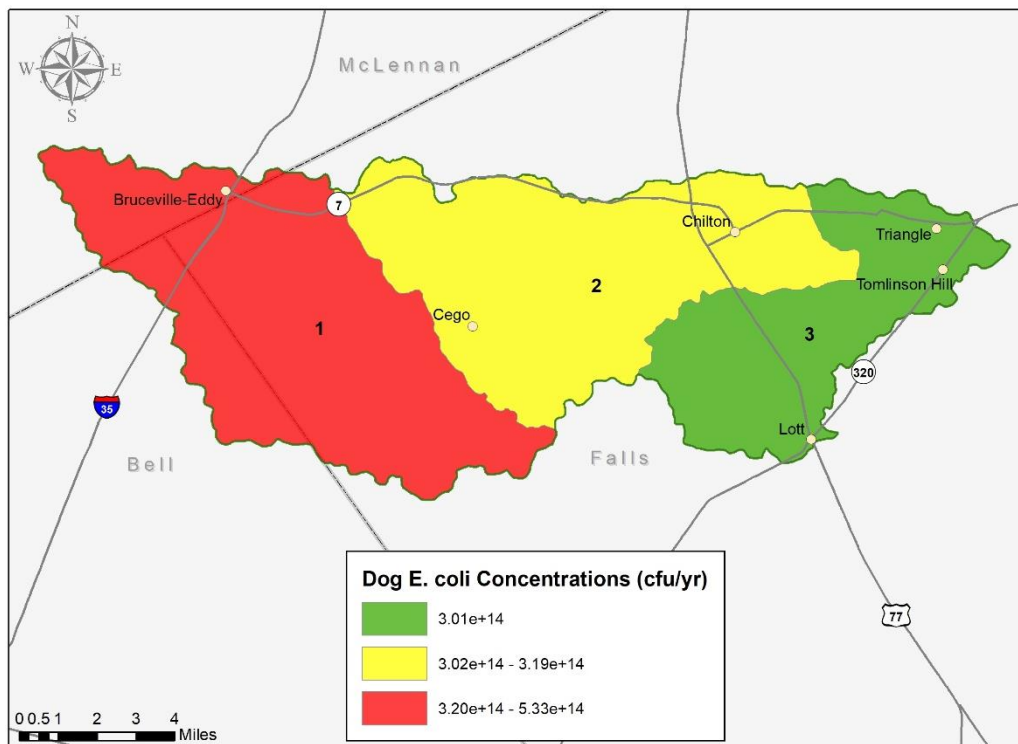


Figure 85. Potential annual bacteria loadings from dogs in the Deer Creek watershed

## WWTFs

According to TCEQ and NPDES data, there is one permitted wastewater discharger in the Middle Yegua Creek watershed, two in the Davidson Creek watershed, and two in the Deer Creek watershed. These wastewater discharges are regulated by TCEQ and are required to report average monthly discharges and *E. coli* concentrations.

Although the permitted discharge volumes and bacteria concentrations are below permitted values, potential loading was calculated using the maximum permitted discharges and concentrations to assess the maximum potential load. Total potential bacteria loads based on maximum permitted discharges across the Middle Yegua Creek watershed is  $3.46 \times 10^{11}$  cfu/yr (Figure 86), and the highest potential load occurs in subwatershed 6. Appendix C describes the equations and assumptions used to generate potential annual loads.

For the Davidson Creek watershed, it was estimated that the total potential bacteria loads based on maximum permitted discharges is  $1.75 \times 10^{12}$  cfu/yr (Figure 87), and the highest potential load occurs in subwatershed 2.

For the Deer Creek watershed, it was estimated that the total potential bacteria loads based on maximum permitted discharges is  $3.20 \times 10^{11}$  cfu/yr (Figure 88), and the highest potential load occurs in subwatershed 2.

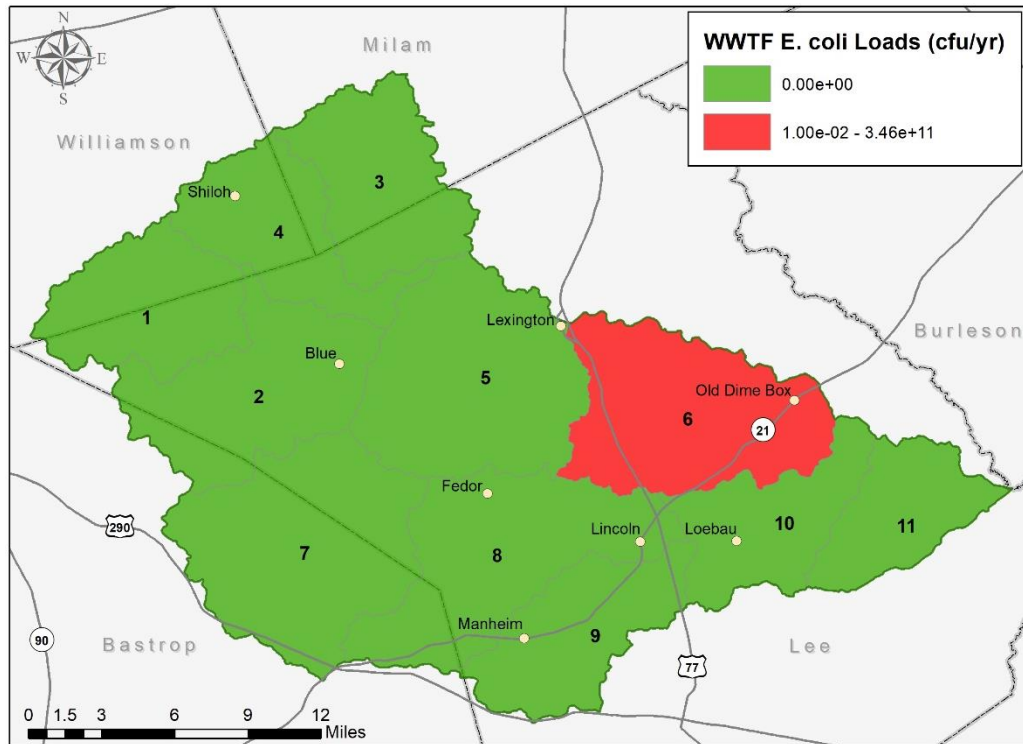


Figure 86. Potential annual bacteria loadings from WWTFs in the Middle Yegua Creek watershed

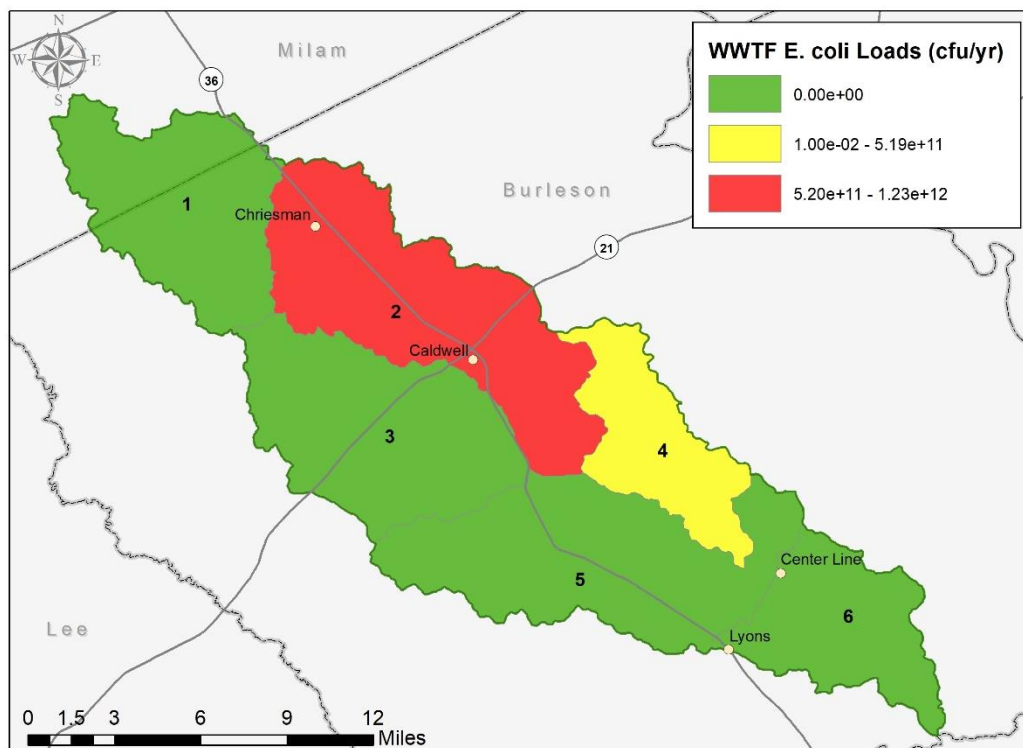


Figure 87. Potential annual bacteria loadings from WWTFs in the Davidson Creek watershed

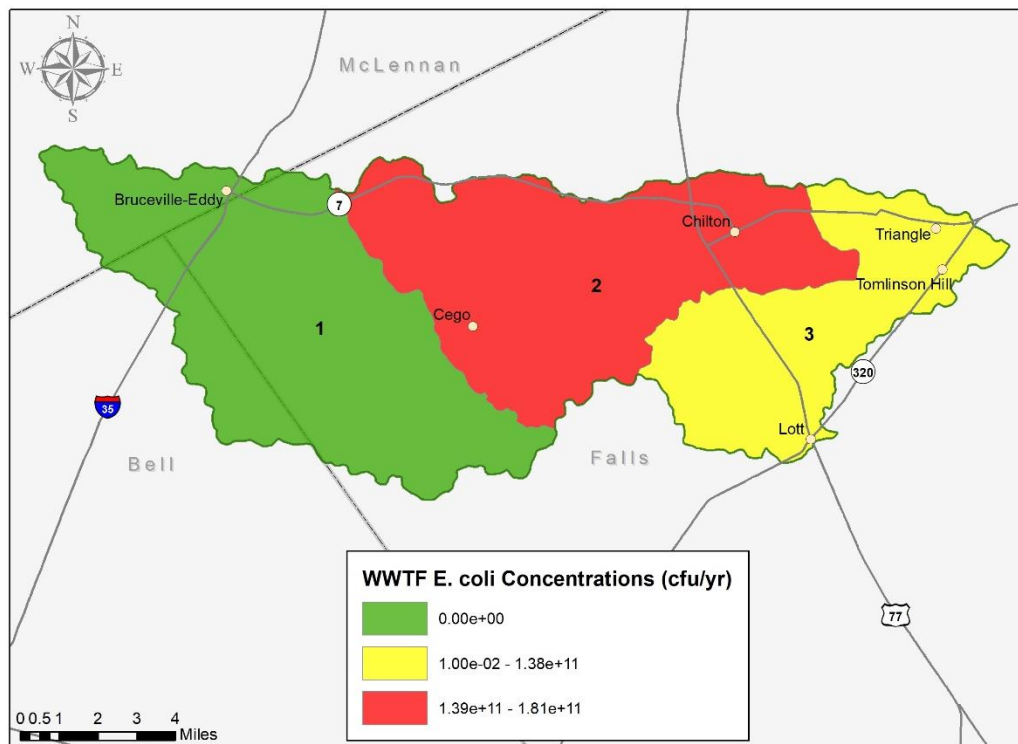


Figure 88. Potential annual bacteria loadings from WWTFs in the Deer Creek watershed

## Load Reduction and Sources Summary

The LDCs provided in the first half of this section indicate that the amount of *E. coli* bacteria entering Middle Yegua Creek, Davidson Creek, and Deer Creek exceeds the capacities of those water bodies under all flow conditions except for Low Flows in Deer Creek and Low Flows in part of Middle Yegua Creek. Based on these curves, it can be assumed that *E. coli* is entering water bodies under both higher flow and lower flow conditions. Using the LDC approach, a total reduction of  $5.90 \times 10^{13}$  MPN/yr was estimated as needed to meet primary contact recreation standards at the Middle Yegua Creek SWQM stations 18750 and 11840. A reduction of  $1.15 \times 10^{13}$  MPN/yr was also estimated for Middle Yegua Creek SWQM station 11838. For Davidson Creek a reduction of  $1.22 \times 10^{14}$  MPN/yr was estimated to meet primary contact recreation standards at SWQM stations 11729, 18349, and 21420. For Deer Creek a reduction of  $3.06 \times 10^{13}$  MPN/yr was estimated to meet primary contact recreation standards at SWQM stations 11723 and 18644.

Given the relatively good compliance of permitted dischargers in the watersheds with the exception of the Lexington WWTF in the Middle Yegua Creek watershed, bacteria loading exceedances during low flow conditions are likely attributable to direct deposition from livestock and wildlife in addition to discharges from unregulated failing and faulty OSSFs in riparian zones. Bacteria in runoff are likely to contribute to exceedances during higher flow conditions. Sources of bacteria-laden runoff might include runoff from rangeland and pastures and drainage fields of faulty OSSFs. Although reported SSO events are extremely uncommon in the watersheds, I&I during heavy rainfall events and resulting SSOs or unauthorized discharges may also contribute to elevated loads during some high flow events.

Based on the GIS analysis, bacteria loadings from cattle and livestock are likely to be relatively high compared to other sources (Table 25). Estimated total potential loads are likely conservative because most wildlife sources of fecal bacteria are not included in the analysis.

Identifying where grazed pasture and rangeland in the watersheds are the most concentrated helps to highlight important areas to address and implement potential improvements in pasture and rangeland runoff. GIS analysis suggests relatively high potential for loadings from dogs in subwatersheds that encompass the cities of Lexington, Caldwell, and Bruceville-Eddy; it will be important to address pet waste and stormwater runoff from impervious surfaces in these areas. OSSFs and feral hogs have moderate potential for *E. coli* loading as compared to other sources. WWTFs and urban stormwater indicated the lowest relative potential for loadings amongst sources assessed.

Table 25. Summary of potential source loads

Source	Middle Yegua Creek		Davidson Creek		Deer Creek	
	Potential Load/yr	Highest Priority Subwatersheds	Potential Load/yr	Highest Priority Subwatersheds	Potential Load/yr	Highest Priority Subwatersheds
Cattle	$1.07 \times 10^{17}$	5 & 8	$5.33 \times 10^{16}$	5	$1.36 \times 10^{16}$	1
Horses	$9.61 \times 10^{13}$	5, 6, 7 & 8	$3.81 \times 10^{13}$	5	$2.07 \times 10^{13}$	1
Goats	$1.26 \times 10^{15}$	5, 6, 7 & 8	$4.17 \times 10^{14}$	5	$3.03 \times 10^{14}$	1
Sheep	$1.07 \times 10^{16}$	5, 6, 7 & 8	$3.86 \times 10^{15}$	5	$5.04 \times 10^{15}$	1
Deer	$2.49 \times 10^{15}$	5 & 7	$1.21 \times 10^{15}$	2 & 5	$1.01 \times 10^{15}$	1
Feral Hogs	$2.80 \times 10^{14}$	5 & 7	$1.37 \times 10^{14}$	2 & 5	$7.25 \times 10^{13}$	1
OSSFs	$7.93 \times 10^{15}$	5	$4.79 \times 10^{15}$	3 & 5	$3.85 \times 10^{15}$	1
Dogs	$2.59 \times 10^{15}$	5	$2.80 \times 10^{15}$	2 & 3	$1.15 \times 10^{15}$	1
WWTFs	$3.46 \times 10^{11}$	6	$1.75 \times 10^{12}$	2	$3.20 \times 10^{11}$	2
Totals	$1.32 \times 10^{17}$		$6.65 \times 10^{16}$		$2.50 \times 10^{16}$	



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## Appendix A: DAR Method Used for LDC Development

Hydrologic data in the form of daily streamflow records were unavailable for the Deer Creek watershed. However, streamflow records were available for the nearby Middle Bosque River watershed of similar land cover characteristics. There were also some instantaneous streamflow records from 2010-2011 at SWQM station 11723 in the watershed. Due to the absence of flow records within the impaired watershed, the naturalized flow was constructed using the DAR approach.

Both sets of flow data, instantaneous flows at SWQM station 11723 and USGS gaged daily streamflow in the Middle Bosque River near McGregor, TX (USGS Gage 08095300) were used to estimate the DAR parameters. The watershed boundaries were delineated above the SWQM station in the Deer Creek watershed and the USGS gage in the Middle Bosque River watershed, using 10-meter DEMs. The influence of the discharge from the City of Crawford WWTF in the Middle Bosque watershed was removed by subtracting the full permitted flow from the gaged record so that the reference flow is considered to be naturalized flow. Prior to the estimation of DAR parameters, zero flows were removed in order for the log transformation to be applied (Asquith et al., 2006).

A generalized DAR method with two parameters  $\phi$  (exponent) and  $\kappa$  (bias correction factor) was applied to simulate flows on days that instantaneous flows were measured (Asquith et al. 2006). A simulation evaluation coefficient, the NSE (Nash-Sutcliffe) was calculated by comparing simulated flow and observed (instantaneous) flow at each exceedance probability. **Error! Reference source not found.** provides the DAR used to develop streamflows at SWQM station 11723. Further information and equations used to calculate the DAR for the Deer Creek watershed can be found in Aquith et al., 2006.

Table 26. Drainage area ratios used to develop daily streamflow records.

Waterbody	Station	Area (square miles)	$\kappa$	$\phi$
Middle Bosque River	USGS 08095300	179.61	NA	NA
Deer Creek	SWQM 11723	113.38	1.61346	5.240959
NSE	0.73	-	-	-

## Appendix B: Annual Bacteria Load Reductions

LDCs and measured loads are summarized by range of flows (high, wet, mid-range, and low). The generalized loading capacity for each of the three flow categories was computed by using the median daily loading capacity within that flow regime (12.5 percent, 50 percent, and 87.5 percent load exceedances). The required daily load reduction was calculated as the difference between the median loading capacity and the geometric mean of observed *E. coli* loading within each flow category. To estimate the needed annual bacteria load reductions, the required daily load was multiplied by the number of days per year in each flow condition. Table 27 includes the calculations used to determine annual reductions in each flow condition. The sum of load reductions within each flow condition is the estimated annual load reductions required in the watersheds.

Table 27. Bacteria load reduction calculations by flow condition

	Flow Conditions		
	High	Mid-Range	Low
Days per year	25% × 365	50% × 365	25% × 365
Median Flow (cubic feet per second)	Median observed or median estimated flow in each flow category		
Existing Geomean Concentration (MPN/100 mL)	Geometric mean of observed <i>E. coli</i> samples in each flow category		
Allowable Daily Load (Billion MPN)	Median Flow × 126 MPN/100 mL × 283.2 100mL/cubic foot × 86400 seconds/day		
Allowable Annual Load (Billion MPN)	Allowable Daily Load × Days per year		
Existing Daily Load (Billion MPN)	Median Flow × Existing Geomean Concentration × 283.2 100mL/cubic foot × 86,400 seconds/day		
Existing Annual Load (Billion MPN)	Existing Daily Load × Days per year		
Annual Load Reduction Needed (Billion MPN)	Existing Annual Load – Allowable Annual Load		
Percent Reduction Needed	(Existing Annual Load – Allowable Annual Load)/Existing Annual Load × 100		
Total Annual Load (Billion MPN)	Sum of Existing Annual Loads		
Total Annual Load Reduction (Billion MPN)	Sum of Annual Load Reductions Needed		
Total Percent Reduction	Total Annual Load Reduction/Total Annual Load × 100		

## Appendix C: Potential Bacteria Loading Calculations

The SELECT geospatial analysis (Borel et al., 2012) methodology was used to estimate potential bacteria loads in the watersheds and their respective subwatersheds. This approach estimates potential loads by subwatershed. This geospatial approach also provides an easy method to understand relative contributions and spatial distribution across the watersheds without relying on data intense (and expensive) modelling approaches.

This analysis distributes inputs across the watersheds based on land use and land cover attributes. The bacteria loadings are calculated from published bacteria production data. The loadings are then spatially distributed across the watersheds based on appropriate land cover.

### Livestock Bacteria Loading Estimates

Cattle populations were estimated across the watershed based on remote-sensed land use data (Homer et al., 2015). The assumptions used in this method are documented in Wagner & Moench (2009) and Borel et al. (2015) (**Error! Reference source not found., Error! Reference source not found., Error! Reference source not found.**).

Table 28. Bacteria loading assumptions for cattle in the Middle Yegua Creek watershed

Assumptions	
Acres of unimproved rangeland	21,710 acres
Acres of improved pasture	156,655 acres
Cattle stocking density on unimproved pasture	10 acres per animal unit
Cattle stocking density on improved pasture	3 acres per animal unit
Cattle on unimproved range	2,171 animal units
Cattle on improved range	52,218 animal units
Total cattle in the watershed	54,389 animal units
Animal unit conversion factor	1 (Wagner & Moench, 2009)
Fecal coliform production rate	$8.55 \times 10^9$ cfu/animal-day (Borel et al., 2015; Wagner & Moench, 2009)
Fecal coliform to <i>E. coli</i> conversion rate	0.63 <i>E. coli</i> per CFU fecal coliform (Wagner & Moench, 2009)



Table 29. Bacteria loading assumptions for cattle in the Davidson Creek watershed

Assumptions	
Acres of unimproved rangeland	4,176 acres
Acres of improved pasture	80,055 acres
Cattle stocking density on unimproved pasture	10 acres per animal unit
Cattle stocking density on improved pasture	3 acres per animal unit
Cattle on unimproved range	418 animal units
Cattle on improved range	26,685 animal units
Total cattle in the watershed	27,103 animal units
Animal unit conversion factor	1 (Borel et al., 2015)
Fecal coliform production rate	$8.55 \times 10^9$ cfu/animal-day (Borel et al., 2015; Wagner & Moench, 2009)
Fecal coliform to <i>E. coli</i> conversion rate	0.63 <i>E. coli</i> per CFU fecal coliform (Wagner & Moench, 2009)

Table 30. Bacteria loading assumptions for cattle in the Deer Creek watershed

Assumptions	
Acres of unimproved rangeland	26,434 acres
Acres of improved pasture	12,803 acres
Cattle stocking density on unimproved pasture	10 acres per animal unit
Cattle stocking density on improved pasture	3 acres per animal unit
Cattle on unimproved range	2,643 animal units
Cattle on improved range	4,268 animal units
Total cattle in the watershed	6,911 animal units
Animal unit conversion factor	1 (Borel et al., 2015)
Fecal coliform production rate	$8.55 \times 10^9$ cfu/animal-day (Borel et al., 2015; Wagner & Moench, 2009)
Fecal coliform to <i>E. coli</i> conversion rate	0.63 <i>E. coli</i> per cfu fecal coliform (Wagner & Moench, 2009)

We then calculate potential annual loadings as:

$$\text{Number of cattle} \times \text{fecal coliform loading rate} \times \text{animal unit conversion} \times \text{factor conversion rate} \times 365 \text{ days/yr}$$

While cattle are the predominate livestock found throughout the counties, some contributions from horses and goats are expected (other livestock are present in the watersheds, but population estimates assume these to be extremely minor). The numbers of these livestock were estimated using NASS Agricultural census counts and the ratio of nonurban county land in the watersheds to the ratio of nonurban land in the counties. Wagner & Moench (2009) and Borel et al. (2015) document the assumptions used in potential daily load calculations for other livestock (**Error! Reference source not found., Error! Reference source not found., Error! Reference source not found.**). Based on these assumptions, potential bacteria load from cattle for the Middle Yegua Creek watershed is  $1.07 \times 10^{17}$  cfu/yr. For the Davidson Creek watershed, the potential bacteria load from

cattle is  $5.33 \times 10^{16}$  cfu/yr and for the Deer Creek watershed, the potential bacteria load from cattle is  $1.36 \times 10^{16}$  cfu/yr.

Table 31. Bacteria loading assumptions for other livestock in the Middle Yegua Creek watershed

Assumptions	
Total number of horses in the watershed	1,149 horses
Total number of goats in the watershed	1,268 goats
Total number of sheep in the watershed	804 sheep
Animal unit conversion factor for horses	1.25 (Borel et al., 2015)
Animal unit conversion factor for goats	0.17 (Borel et al., 2015)
Animal unit conversion factor for sheep	0.2 (Borel et al., 2015)
Fecal coliform production rate for horses	$2.91 \times 10^8$ cfu/animal-day (Borel et al., 2015; Wagner & Moench, 2009)
Fecal coliform production rate for goats	$2.54 \times 10^{10}$ cfu/animal-day (Borel et al., 2015; Wagner & Moench, 2009)
Fecal coliform production rate for sheep	$2.90 \times 10^{11}$ cfu/animal-day (Borel et al., 2015; Wagner & Moench, 2009)
Fecal coliform to <i>E. coli</i> conversion rate	0.63 <i>E. coli</i> per cfu fecal coliform (Wagner & Moench, 2009)

Table 32. Bacteria loading assumptions for other livestock in the Davidson Creek watershed

Assumptions	
Total number of horses in the watershed	456 horses
Total number of goats in the watershed	419 goats
Total number of sheep in the watershed	290 sheep
Animal unit conversion factor for horses	1.25 (Borel et al., 2015)
Animal unit conversion factor for goats	0.17 (Borel et al., 2015)
Animal unit conversion factor for sheep	0.2 (Borel et al., 2015)
Fecal coliform production rate for horses	$2.91 \times 10^8$ cfu/animal-day (Borel et al., 2015; Wagner & Moench, 2009)
Fecal coliform production rate for goats	$2.54 \times 10^{10}$ cfu/animal-day (Borel et al., 2015; Wagner & Moench, 2009)
Fecal coliform production rate for sheep	$2.90 \times 10^{11}$ cfu/animal-day (Borel et al., 2015; Wagner & Moench, 2009)
Fecal coliform to <i>E. coli</i> conversion rate	0.63 <i>E. coli</i> per cfu fecal coliform (Wagner & Moench, 2009)

Table 33. Bacteria loading assumptions for other livestock in the Deer Creek watershed

Assumptions	
Total number of horses in the watershed	247 horses
Total number of goats in the watershed	305 goats
Total number of sheep in the watershed	378 sheep
Animal unit conversion factor for horses	1.25 (Borel et al., 2015)
Animal unit conversion factor for goats	0.17 (Borel et al., 2015)
Animal unit conversion factor for sheep	0.2 (Borel et al., 2015)
Fecal coliform production rate for horses	$2.91 \times 10^8$ cfu/animal-day (Borel et al., 2015; Wagner & Moench, 2009)
Fecal coliform production rate for goats	$2.54 \times 10^{10}$ cfu/animal-day (Borel et al., 2015; Wagner & Moench, 2009)
Fecal coliform production rate for sheep	$2.90 \times 10^{11}$ cfu/animal-day (Borel et al., 2015; Wagner & Moench, 2009)
Fecal coliform to <i>E. coli</i> conversion rate	0.63 <i>E. coli</i> per cfu fecal coliform (Wagner & Moench, 2009)

We then calculate potential annual loadings as:

$$\text{Number of livestock} \times \text{fecal coliform loading rate} \times \text{animal unit conversion} \times \text{factor conversion rate} \times 365 \text{ days/yr}$$

Based on these assumptions, the annual potential load from horses for the Middle Yegua Creek watershed is  $9.61 \times 10^{13}$  cfu/yr, from goats is  $1.26 \times 10^{15}$  cfu/yr, and from sheep is  $1.07 \times 10^{16}$  cfu/yr. For the Davidson Creek watershed, the annual potential load from horses is  $3.81 \times 10^{13}$  cfu/yr, from goats is  $4.17 \times 10^{14}$  cfu/yr, and from sheep is  $3.86 \times 10^{15}$  cfu/yr. For the Deer Creek watershed, the annual potential load from horses is  $2.07 \times 10^{13}$  cfu/yr, from goats is  $3.03 \times 10^{14}$  cfu/yr, and from sheep is  $5.04 \times 10^{15}$  cfu/yr.

## Dog Bacteria Loading Estimates

The dog populations in the watersheds were estimated using American Veterinary Medical Association statistics for average number of dogs per household and an estimate of number of households derived from Census block data (**Error! Reference source not found., Error! Reference source not found., Error! Reference source not found.**). The potential annual bacteria load from household pets is:

$$\text{Average number of dogs per home} \times \text{number of homes} \times \text{dog fecal coliform loading rate} \times \text{conversion rate} \times 365 \text{ days/yr}$$

Table 34. Bacteria loading assumptions for dogs in the Middle Yegua Creek watershed

Assumptions	
Average dogs per home	0.614 dogs (American Veterinary Medical Association, 2018)
Number of homes	3,675 homes
Estimated number of dogs	2,256 dogs
Fecal coliform production rate for dogs	$5.0 \times 10^9$ cfu/dog/day (Borel et al., 2015)
Fecal coliform to <i>E. coli</i> conversion rate	0.63 <i>E. coli</i> per cfu fecal coliform (Wagner & Moench, 2009)

Table 35. Bacteria loading assumptions for dogs in the Davidson Creek watershed

Assumptions	
Average dogs per home	0.614 dogs (American Veterinary Medical Association, 2018)
Number of homes	3,965 homes
Estimated number of dogs	2,435 dogs
Fecal coliform production rate for dogs	$5.0 \times 10^9$ cfu/dog/day (Borel et al., 2015)
Fecal coliform to <i>E. coli</i> conversion rate	0.63 <i>E. coli</i> per cfu fecal coliform (Wagner & Moench, 2009)

Table 36. Bacteria loading assumptions for dogs in the Deer Creek watershed

Assumptions	
Average dogs per home	0.614 dogs (American Veterinary Medical Association, 2018)
Number of homes	1,633 homes
Estimated number of dogs	746 dogs
Fecal coliform production rate for dogs	$5.0 \times 10^9$ cfu/dog/day (Borel et al., 2015)
Fecal coliform to <i>E. coli</i> conversion rate	0.63 <i>E. coli</i> per cfu fecal coliform (Wagner & Moench, 2009)

The annual potential bacteria load from dogs for the Middle Yegua Creek watershed is  $2.59 \times 10^{15}$  cfu/yr. For the Davidson Creek watershed, the annual potential bacteria load from dogs is  $2.80 \times 10^{15}$  cfu/yr. For the Deer Creek watershed, the annual potential bacteria load from dogs is  $1.15 \times 10^{15}$  cfu/yr.

## OSSF Bacteria Loading Estimates

OSSF locations in the watersheds were estimated with visually validated 911 address data. Nearly all the OSSFs occur on soils with an expected failure rate of 15 percent. Loadings were calculated using the SELECT methodology with the assumptions outlined in **Error! Reference source not found.**, **Error! Reference source not found.** and **Error! Reference source not found.**. Different numbers of people per household were assigned to different subwatersheds based on available census block data. The potential annual bacteria load from OSSFs is:

$$\text{Number of OSSFs} \times \text{failure rate} \times \text{average people per household} \times \text{sewage discharge rate} \times \text{fecal coliform concentration in sewage} \times \text{mL to gal conversion} \times \text{conversion rate} \times 365 \text{ days/yr}$$

Table 37. Bacteria loading assumptions for OSSFs in the Middle Yegua Creek watershed

Assumptions	
Subwatershed 1 Number of OSSFs	444
Subwatershed 2 Number of OSSFs	389
Subwatershed 3 Number of OSSFs	189
Subwatershed 4 Number of OSSFs	288
Subwatershed 5 Number of OSSFs	632
Subwatershed 6 Number of OSSFs	447
Subwatershed 7 Number of OSSFs	482
Subwatershed 8 Number of OSSFs	398
Subwatershed 9 Number of OSSFs	306
Subwatershed 10 Number of OSSFs	165
Subwatershed 11 Number of OSSFs	213
Failure rate	15% (NRCS, 2019)
Average number of people per household in the watershed	2.21 (USCB, 2010)
Sewage discharge rate	70 gal/person/day (Borel et al., 2015)
Fecal coliform concentration in sewage	1.0×10 <sup>6</sup> cfu/100mL (USEPA, 2001)
Conversion from mL to gal	3,758.2 mL/gal
Fecal coliform to <i>E. coli</i> conversion rate	0.63 <i>E. coli</i> per cfu fecal coliform (Wagner & Moench, 2009)

Table 38. Bacteria loading assumptions for OSSFs in the Davidson Creek watershed

Assumptions	
Subwatershed 1 Number of OSSFs	234
Subwatershed 2 Number of OSSFs	428
Subwatershed 3 Number of OSSFs	610
Subwatershed 4 Number of OSSFs	269
Subwatershed 5 Number of OSSFs	553
Subwatershed 6 Number of OSSFs	314
Failure rate	15% (NRCS, 2019)
Average number of people per household in the watershed	2.19 (USCB, 2010)
Sewage discharge rate	70 gal/person/day (Borel et al., 2015)
Fecal coliform concentration in sewage	10×10 <sup>6</sup> cfu/100mL (USEPA, 2001)
Conversion from mL to gal	3,758.2 mL/gal
Fecal coliform to <i>E. coli</i> conversion rate	0.63 <i>E. coli</i> per cfu fecal coliform (Wagner & Moench, 2009)

Table 39. Bacteria loading assumptions for OSSFs in the Deer Creek watershed

Assumptions	
Subwatershed 1 Number of OSSFs	752
Subwatershed 2 Number of OSSFs	532
Subwatershed 3 Number of OSSFs	401
Failure rate	15% (NRCS, 2019)
Average number of people per household in the watershed	2.52 (USCB, 2010)
Sewage discharge rate	70 gal/person/day (Borel et al., 2015)
Fecal coliform concentration in sewage	$1.0 \times 10^6$ cfu/100mL (USEPA, 2001)
Conversion from mL to gal	3,758.2 mL/gal
Fecal coliform to <i>E. coli</i> conversion rate	0.63 <i>E. coli</i> per cfu fecal coliform (Wagner & Moench, 2009)

The annual potential bacteria load from OSSFs for the Middle Yegua Creek watershed is  $7.93 \times 10^{15}$  cfu/yr. For the Davidson Creek watershed, the annual potential bacteria load from OSSFs is  $4.79 \times 10^{15}$  cfu/yr. For the Deer Creek watershed, the annual potential bacteria load from OSSFs is  $3.85 \times 10^{15}$  cfu/yr.

### Feral Hog and Wildlife Bacteria Loading Estimates

Feral hog populations were estimated based on an assumed population density of 33.3 acres/hog (Wagner & Moench, 2009) and acres of available habitat identified in the NLCD for each watershed. Potential bacteria loadings from feral hogs were estimated and the assumptions are in **Error!**

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$$\text{Number of feral hogs} \times \text{animal unit conversion} \times \text{fecal coliform loading rate} \times \text{conversion rate} \times 365 \text{ days/yr}$$

Table 40. Bacteria loading assumptions for feral hogs in the Middle Yegua Creek watershed

Assumptions	
Number of feral hogs in the watershed	8,053
Animal unit conversion factor for feral hogs	0.125
Fecal coliform production rate for feral hogs	$1.21 \times 10^9$ cfu/animal-day (Borel et al., 2015; Wagner & Moench, 2009)
Fecal coliform to <i>E. coli</i> conversion rate	0.63 <i>E. coli</i> per cfu fecal coliform (Wagner & Moench, 2009)



Table 41. Bacteria loading assumptions for feral hogs in the Davidson Creek watershed

Assumptions	
Number of feral hogs in the watershed	3,932
Animal unit conversion factor for feral hogs	0.125
Fecal coliform production rate for feral hogs	$1.21 \times 10^9$ cfu/animal-day (Borel et al., 2015; Wagner & Moench, 2009)
Fecal coliform to <i>E. coli</i> conversion rate	0.63 <i>E. coli</i> per cfu fecal coliform (Wagner & Moench, 2009)

Table 42. Bacteria loading assumptions for feral hogs in the Deer Creek watershed

Assumptions	
Number of feral hogs in the watershed	2,085
Animal unit conversion factor for feral hogs	0.125
Fecal coliform production rate for feral hogs	$1.21 \times 10^9$ cfu/animal-day (Borel et al., 2015; Wagner & Moench, 2009)
Fecal coliform to <i>E. coli</i> conversion rate	0.63 <i>E. coli</i> per cfu fecal coliform (Wagner & Moench, 2009)

The annual potential bacteria load from feral hogs for the Middle Yegua Creek watershed is  $2.80 \times 10^{14}$  cfu/yr. For the Davidson Creek watershed, the annual potential bacteria load from feral hogs is  $1.37 \times 10^{14}$  cfu/yr. For the Deer Creek watershed, the annual potential bacteria load from feral hogs is  $7.25 \times 10^{13}$  cfu/yr.

White-tailed deer populations were estimated from an assumed population density of 41.65 deer per 1,000 acres of suitable habitat for the Middle Yegua and Davidson Creek watersheds (data provided from TPWD). For the Deer Creek watershed, the assumed population density was 26.69 deer per 1,000 acres of suitable habitat. Potential bacteria loadings were estimated and the assumptions are in **Error! Reference source not found., Error! Reference source not found.** and **Error! Reference source not found..** The potential annual bacteria load from white-tailed deer is:

$$\text{Number of white-tailed deer} \times \text{animal unit conversion} \times \text{fecal coliform loading rate} \times \text{conversion rate} \times 365 \text{ days/yr}$$

Table 43. Bacteria loading assumptions for white-tailed deer in the Middle Yegua Creek watershed

Assumptions	
Number of white-tailed deer in the watershed	6,438
Animal unit conversion factor for white-tailed deer	0.112
Fecal coliform production rate for white-tailed deer	$1.50 \times 10^{10}$ cfu/animal-day (Borel et al., 2015; Wagner & Moench, 2009)
Fecal coliform to <i>E. coli</i> conversion rate	0.63 <i>E. coli</i> per cfu fecal coliform (Wagner & Moench, 2009)

Table 44. Bacteria loading assumptions for white-tailed deer in the Davidson Creek watershed

Assumptions	
Number of white-tailed deer in the watershed	3,144
Animal unit conversion factor for white-tailed deer	0.112
Fecal coliform production rate for white-tailed deer	$1.50 \times 10^{10}$ cfu/animal-day (Borel et al., 2015; Wagner & Moench, 2009)
Fecal coliform to <i>E. coli</i> conversion rate	0.63 <i>E. coli</i> per cfu fecal coliform (Wagner & Moench, 2009)

Table 45. Bacteria loading assumptions for white-tailed deer in the Davidson Creek watershed

Assumptions	
Number of white-tailed deer in the watershed	2,602
Animal unit conversion factor for white-tailed deer	0.112
Fecal coliform production rate for white-tailed deer	$1.50 \times 10^{10}$ cfu/animal-day (Borel et al., 2015; Wagner & Moench, 2009)
Fecal coliform to <i>E. coli</i> conversion rate	0.63 <i>E. coli</i> per cfu fecal coliform (Wagner & Moench, 2009)

The annual potential bacteria load from white-tailed deer for the Middle Yegua Creek watershed is  $2.49 \times 10^{15}$  cfu/yr. For the Davidson Creek watershed, the annual potential bacteria load from white-tailed deer is  $1.21 \times 10^{15}$  cfu/yr. For the Deer Creek watershed, the annual potential bacteria load from white-tailed deer is  $1.01 \times 10^{15}$  cfu/yr.

### WWTF Bacteria Loading Estimates

Currently, one permitted WWTF operates in the Middle Yegua Creek watershed, two in the Davidson Creek watershed, and two in the Deer Creek watershed. All are permitted to discharge wastewater effluent from treated household sewage and are required to monitor bacteria levels in their discharge. The bacteria loads were estimated at a worst-case scenario of full permitted discharge at 126 cfu/100mL *E. coli* (**Error! Reference source not found., Error! Reference source not found., Error! Reference source not found.**). The potential annual bacteria load from WWTFs is:

$$\text{Maximum permitted discharge} \times \text{bacteria concentration in sewage} \times \text{conversion from mL to gal} \times \text{conversion from gal to MGD} \times 365 \text{ days/yr}$$

Table 46. Bacteria loading assumptions for WWTFs in the Middle Yegua Creek watershed

Assumptions	
Subwatershed 6 treated wastewater effluent discharged per day	0.2 MGD (USEPA, 2019)
<i>E. coli</i> concentration in sewage	126 cfu/100mL
Conversion from mL to gal	3,758.2 mL/gal
Conversion from gal to MGD	10 <sup>6</sup> gal/MGD

Table 47. Bacteria loading assumptions for WWTFs in the Davidson Creek watershed

Assumptions	
Subwatershed 2 treated wastewater effluent discharged per day	0.711 MGD (USEPA, 2019)
Subwatershed 4 treated wastewater effluent discharged per day	0.3 MGD (USEPA, 2019)
<i>E. coli</i> concentration in sewage	126 cfu/100mL
Conversion from mL to gal	3,758.2 mL/gal
Conversion from gal to MGD	10 <sup>6</sup> gal/MGD

Table 48. Bacteria loading assumptions for WWTFs in the Deer Creek watershed

Assumptions	
Subwatershed 2 treated wastewater effluent discharged per day	0.105 MGD (USEPA, 2019)
Subwatershed 3 treated wastewater effluent discharged per day	0.08 MGD (USEPA, 2019)
<i>E. coli</i> concentration in sewage	126 cfu/100mL
Conversion from mL to gal	3,758.2 mL/gal
Conversion from gal to MGD	10 <sup>6</sup> gal/MGD

The annual potential bacteria load from WWTFs for the Middle Yegua Creek watershed is  $3.46 \times 10^{11}$  cfu/yr. For the Davidson Creek watershed, the annual potential bacteria load from white-tailed deer is  $1.75 \times 10^{12}$  cfu/yr. For the Deer Creek watershed, the annual potential bacteria load from white-tailed deer is  $3.20 \times 10^{11}$  cfu/yr.